

VOTES

OF THE HONOURABLE

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

OF

J A M A I C A,

IN A SESSION

Begun JUNE 12, *and ended* JUNE 23, 1798.

Being the Fourth Session of the present Assembly.



ST. JAGO DE LA VEGA:
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V O T E S

OF THE

ASSEMBLY OF JAMAICA.

Martis, 12^o die Junii, 1793.

SEVERAL of the members of the assembly being met, according to proclamation, and being informed by Mr. Lewis, clerk to the assembly, that he had received a letter from Mr. Speaker, desiring him to acquaint the members, that he was, from extreme indisposition, incapable of attending in the chair, and to request that they would choose a speaker, *pro tempore*, till his health would permit him to attend: House meets.

Mr. Taylor and Mr. Lyon were desired to wait on his honour the lieutenant-governor, and acquaint him therewith, and to desire his honour would be pleased to give leave to proceed to the choice of a speaker, *pro tempore*; who returning, reported, that his honour was pleased to give leave accordingly:

Whereupon the members unanimously chose Kean Osborn, esquire, their speaker, *pro tempore*; who being conducted to the chair; Speaker, *pro tempore*, chosen.

Mr. Fitch and Mr. Macleod were desired to wait on his honour the lieutenant-governor, and acquaint him, that the members had made choice of a speaker, *pro tempore*, and desire to know when they shall attend his honour to present him; who returning, reported that his honour was pleased to say, immediately:

Whereupon the house attended his honour, and presented their speaker, *pro tempore*; who being approved of, and being returned;

A message from his honour the lieutenant-governor, in council, by the provost-marshal, commanding, in the king's name, the attendance of the house, in the council-chamber, immediately: Message to attend his honour.

A

Whereupon

Whereupon Mr. Speaker, *pro tempore*, and the whole house, went up, and being returned;

Writs issued during
recess.

Mr. Speaker, *pro tempore*, acquainted the house that, in pursuance of the directions of an act for that purpose, passed in the year 1795, a new writ had been issued, during the recess, for the election of a member to serve in this assembly, for the parish of St. John, in the room of Peeke Fuller, esquire, deceased; and that one other writ had been issued for the election of a member to serve in this assembly, for the parish of St. Mary, in the room of William Ross, esquire, deceased.

Ordered,

Rules of the house.

That the rules agreed to by the house on the first day of the last session, be the standing rules of the house, during the present session.

Dedimus.

A message from his honour the lieutenant-governor, in council, by the clerk of the council, who brought down a *dedimus* directed to the speaker, *pro tempore*, empowering him to administer the usual oaths, to such members of the present assembly as have not been already sworn, and to hear and see them repeat and subscribe the test.

Returns to writs.

A message from his honour the lieutenant-governor, in council, by the clerk of the council, who brought down the writs of election for the parishes of St. John and St. Mary; which, with the provost-marshal's returns thereto, being severally read, it appeared that John Quier, esquire, was returned a representative for the said parish of St. John, in the room of Peeke Fuller, esquire, deceased; and that the writ of election for the said parish of St. Mary had not been executed:

Ordered,

That the provost-marshal-general do attend at the bar of this house, to-morrow, to give his reasons for having returned the writ of election for the parish of St. Mary "not executed."

Mr. Speaker, *pro
tempore*, reports his
honour's speech.

Mr. Speaker, *pro tempore*, reported, that the house had attended his honour the lieutenant-governor, in the council-chamber, and that his honour was pleased to make a speech; of which, Mr. Speaker, *pro tempore*, said, he had, to prevent mistakes, obtained a copy; and the same being read, was ordered to be entered, and is as follows:

"GENTLEMEN OF THE COUNCIL,

"MR. SPEAKER, AND GENTLEMEN OF THE ASSEMBLY,

"I am sorry to acquaint you, that some daring outrages have been lately committed in the leeward part of this island, by runaway slaves, who have associated themselves for rebellious purposes.

"I have ordered several parties into the woods, to follow the rebels, and to reduce them.

"In times of general danger, such as the present, it is our duty to watch over the commencement of insurrection, with the most anxious care and zealous circumspection.

"Having

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" Having often experienced the great benefits which are derived from your counsels, I feel the most earnest solicitude, to consult with you, and to avail myself of your advice upon all occasions, more especially those in which the welfare of this community is in any degree implicated.

" Under this impression, I shall make no particular apology for having assembled you before the usual period.

" MR. SPEAKER, AND GENTLEMEN OF THE ASSEMBLY,

" The quelling of the present disturbances, I am sorry to observe, must necessarily be attended with considerable expence: I have not a doubt, that you will provide for it, with your usual patriotism and zeal.

" GENTLEMEN OF THE COUNCIL,

" MR. SPEAKER, AND GENTLEMEN OF THE ASSEMBLY,

" I shall order such papers to be laid before you, as may explain the nature of these disturbances, and I have to recommend to your attention, the framing or amending of such laws, as may best suit the present exigency."

A motion being made, that a committee be appointed, to prepare an humble address to his honour the lieutenant-governor, for his speech at the opening of the session;

Motion for address on his honour's speech.

Ordered,

That Mr. Cuthbert, Mr. Fitch, and Mr. Shirley, be a committee for that purpose:

Ordered,

That his honour's speech be referred to the said committee.

Mr. Speaker, *pro tempore*, laid before the house, three letters from Mr. Stewart, Mr. Finlayson, and Mr. Barnett, severally mentioning their being obliged to leave the island on particular occasions, and requesting leave of absence for twelve months:

Leave of absence to members.

Ordered,

That they severally have leave for twelve months, in case they shall be so long absent from the island.

Mr. Speaker, *pro tempore*, laid before the house, two letters from Mr. Murray and Mr. Fraser, mentioning that, by reason of indisposition, they would not be able to attend the house, during the present session; and also a letter from Mr. Perry, mentioning that his private concerns, at this particular season of the year, render it very inconvenient for him to attend the house; and severally requesting leave of absence;

Ordered,

That they severally have leave of absence, during the present session.

Ordered,

That all standing committees of the late session be revived.

Ordered,

Standing committees.

Ordered,

Original laws to be sent unto the house.

That the secretary of this island do forthwith send unto the house, the several original laws of this island, now in his custody.

Ordered,

Books, &c. of commissioners of correspondence to be laid before the house.

That the clerk appointed by the commissioners of correspondence, do forthwith send unto the house, all books, papers, and writings, now in his custody, belonging to the said commissioners.

Resolved,

Resolutions for committee of whole on his honour's speech;

That this house will, to-morrow, resolve itself into a committee of the whole house, to take into consideration his honour the lieutenant-governor's speech at the opening of the session.

Resolved,

and on the state of the island.

That this house will, to-morrow, resolve itself into a committee of the whole house, to enquire into and take into consideration the state of the island.

Resolved,

Votes to be printed.

That Mr. Speaker, *pro tempore*, do authorize any person to print the votes of this session; and that no other person do presume to print the same.

Then the house adjourned till to-morrow morning, nine of the clock.

By virtue of an order of the house, I do appoint Alexander Ashman to print these Notes, and that no other person do presume to print the same.
KEAN OSBORN, *Speaker, pro tempore*.

Mercurii, 13^o die Junii, 1798.

Mr. Quier takes his seat.

JOHN Quier, esquire, attending, took the usual oaths, and his seat, accordingly.

Address to his honour reported;

Mr. Cuthbert, from the committee, appointed to prepare an humble address to his honour the lieutenant-governor, in answer to his speech at the opening of the session, reported the same, which he read in his place, and delivered in at the table; where being again read:

Resolved,

Committed;]

That the said address be committed to a committee of the whole house, immediately:

Then the house resolved itself into such committee:

Mr. Speaker, *pro tempore*, left the chair.

Mr. Cuthbert took the chair of the committee.

Mr.

Mr. Speaker, *pro tempore*, resumed the chair.

Mr. Cuthbert, from the committee, reported that they had gone through the address, without making any amendment thereto:

Ordered,

That the said address be engrossed.

and ordered to be engrossed.

The provost-marshal-general attending, according to order, and being called to the bar, Mr. Speaker, *pro tempore*, demanded of him, why the writ of election for the parish of St. Mary had been returned "not executed;" when he informed the house, that he understood from his clerk, that the writ was lodged in his office on the 15th March last, at which time he was not in Spanish-Town; that it was sent to Hector M-Kay, his deputy for St. Mary, to be executed, by a servant of said deputy's, on the 17th; who, falling sick on the road, did not deliver it to his master till the 20th, when it was sent to the chief magistrate; after which sufficient notice could not be given to the freeholders of the day of election:

St. Mary's writ
"not executed."

And then he was ordered to withdraw:

Resolved,

That the provost-marshal-general hath given satisfactory reasons for the non-execution of the writ of election, issued for the parish of St. Mary.

Ordered,

That he be discharged from any further attendance on the house.

Ordered,

That the following message be sent to his honour the lieutenant-governor:

"MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOUR,

"We are ordered by the house to wait on your honour, and to request that you will be pleased to give directions for issuing another writ, to choose a representative for the parish of St. Mary, in the room of William Ross, esquire, deceased; it appearing, by the provost-marshal's return to that issued during the recess, and sent down to the house by your honour, that the same had not been executed."

Message to his honour for another writ for St. Mary.

Ordered,

That Mr. Grant and Mr. Macleod be a committee to wait on his honour with the above message; who returning, reported the delivery thereof, and that his honour was pleased to say, he would give directions accordingly.

A petition of William Smellie Forbes, principal surgeon to his majesty's naval hospital at Port-Royal, was presented to the house, and read, setting forth,

Petition of Dr. Forbes, of the naval hospital, Port-Royal.

"That his majesty's naval hospital at Port-Royal is very much incommoded, by a ruinous building to the windward of the said hospital, the property of minors, as the petitioner had been informed:

"That, by its being very near to the windows, the sea breeze and fresh air are prevented from being introduced, and spirituous liquors are conveyed to the seamen under cure in said hospital; and crimps, and their emissaries, are enabled to hold conversations with said seamen, numbers of whom are induced to run away and desert his majesty's service, to the very great injury thereof; it being no unusual thing for more than ten to be seduced away in one night:

"That the petitioner having laid the grievance before sir Hyde Parker, commander in chief of his majesty's naval forces here, he was authorized to take such steps as he thought requisite, to accomplish so desirable an object as to purchase

the said buildings, &c. in order to have them pulled down, to enlarge the area of the hospital, and to prevent the before-mentioned grievances; but a most exorbitant sum has been demanded, and it is not possible to grant a title to his majesty, without the aid of the house."

And praying for relief.

Ordered,

Bill ordered.

That Mr. Christie, Mr. Hering, and Mr. Johnson, be a committee to prepare and bring in a bill, to carry into effect the purposes of the above petition.

Foreign slaves.

A motion being made, that a committee be appointed, to prepare and bring in a bill for vesting certain powers in the magistrates of the several parishes of this island, respecting foreign slaves; and for other purposes;

Ordered,

Bill ordered.

That Mr. Shirley, Mr. Cockburn, Mr. Fitch, Mr. Jaques, and Mr. Shaw, be a committee for that purpose.

Instructions to letters of marque, respecting prisoners.

A motion being made, that a committee be appointed, to prepare and bring in a bill for enforcing the instructions, given to all captains or commanding officers of ships and vessels, having letters of marque and reprisals against the enemy;

Ordered,

Bill ordered.

That Mr. Shirley, Mr. Dawson, and Mr. Hering, be a committee for that purpose.

Ordered,

That the following message be sent to his honour the lieutenant-governor:

"MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOUR,

Public books of accounts to be laid before the house.

"We are ordered by the house to wait on your honour, and to request that you will be pleased to give directions to the receiver-general, to attend the house with the public books of accounts."

Ordered,

That Mr. Shaw and Mr. Henckell be a committee to wait on his honour with the above message; who returning, reported the delivery thereof, and that his honour was pleased to say, he would give directions accordingly.

Resolved,

No private business to be received.

That this house will not receive any business of a private nature, during the present session.

Ordered,

That the above resolution be published in the several newspapers of this island, for one week.

Leave of absence to the chaplain.

Mr. Speaker, *pro tempore*, laid before the house, a letter from the reverend Mr. Warren, chaplain to the house, mentioning the ill health of himself, and his family, and requesting leave of absence:

Ordered,

That he have leave of absence, during the present session.

Two messages from his honour the lieutenant-governor, by his secretary, as follows:

First

First message.

“ MR. SPEAKER,

“ I am commanded to lay before the house, the papers alluded to in his honour's speech of yesterday.

“ I am further ordered to inform the house,

“ That his honour considers the present rebellion to be dangerous in the extreme, unless the legislature, without a moment's delay, will adopt the most vigorous measures to crush it :

“ That, from his honour's knowledge of the interior of this island, and the means of its defence, he has formed an opinion so decided, that he is in duty bound to submit it to the attention of the house :

“ His honour conceives, that the militia of this island, however respectable in other points, are not well calculated to follow, and to reduce, those riotous runaway slaves, who have entered into a state of rebellion :

“ That the regular troops are not up to it :

“ That armed and trusty negroes, under the denomination of black shot, are the description of force the best adapted to effect the service :

“ That, having offered this opinion to several parishes of this island, two of them, namely Trelawny and St. James, have given it their firmest support and countenance, and have actually, on the requisition of his honour, raised strong parties of confidential slaves, who have been marched into the woods, and already have done essential service :

“ That, admitting the efforts of those confidential slaves may be attended with the happiest effects, it is evident that the day must arrive, when these valuable men must be returned to their masters :

“ That the mountains where the rebellion exists, are covered with provisions, owing to the number of estates which have of late years been created in the vicinity of the cock-pits ; that this affords an increased quantity of food to any number of banditti who may occupy these fastnesses :

“ That the country in question is the weak point of the island, and absolutely requires a specific and appropriate defence :

“ That, whether alarm is well or ill founded, whether danger is real or imaginary, equal evil generally accrues to this island ; and often, on trivial occasions, it is subjected to an enormous expenditure of treasure, and also to the constant disgrace of heavy bodies of militia, with numerous followers and baggage negroes, returning without having discovered any enemy to compete with :

“ That his honour's opinion is not only founded on the papers that accompany this message, but is also the result of his military experience in this island :

“ That he, therefore, must earnestly recommend, that at least three companies of trusty negroes, under white officers, be forthwith raised, for the purpose of constantly ranging the cock-pits, and the woods adjoining :

“ That those three companies should consist of seventy privates each, with officers and non-commissioned officers, in proportion :

Message from his honour, respecting the runaway slaves in rebellion, with the papers referred to in his speech.

“ That

"That, as the benefits to be derived from their services, can only arise from the excellence of the ground-work, his honour trusts the island will unite in the sentiment of completing them, with negroes of the best description :

"To the principle of using such a force, his honour adds another, namely, employing the Accompong maroons ; a body of men who have ever remained faithful to their king and country."

No. 1.

MY LORD,

Falmouth, 15th February, 1798.

Letter from the
custos of Trelawny.

The very great importance of the subject of Mr. M'Ghie's letter, a copy of which I have the honour to transmit to you, prompted me, as early as possible after the receipt, to convene the magistrates of this parish; who have unanimously recommended, that I solicit your lordship to adopt such measures as may seem most advisable, for the suppression of that which appears to be the forerunner of a new commotion among the slaves: I must apprise your lordship, that Mr. Young, who is named in that letter, himself produced it to me, and corroborated, most circumstantially, the several matters therein related; but, as he met me on the road, at a great distance from any house, and as he was extremely anxious to watch the motions of the rebels during the night, if they could be discovered, I thought it advisable that he should return to the property, for its immediate protection, and I could not then take his affidavit of the facts, but which shall be sent you by the next post; before that time we hope to have your lordship's answer to this.

I have the honour to be, MY LORD, your lordship's most obedient humble servant,

The right honourable earl Balcarres.

JAMES IRVING.

SIR,

Hampstead, 14th February, 1798.

Mr. M'Ghie's letter.

This morning I had the pleasure to answer your letter to me, which was handed yesterday by colonel Gibson.

I have now to acquaint you, of a very alarming matter that has happened at Coxheath pen; which, if not timely checked, may prove of a very serious consequence to the inhabitants of this island.

This morning, between the hours of nine and ten o'clock, a body of runaways, to a considerable number, came out of the woods, and broke into my house there, and carried away three guns, with a very rich hanger and belt of mine, and a pair of pistols; the cloathing of Mr. Young, &c.

For more particulars I refer you to him; I think that immediate word should be sent to the lieutenant-governor, acquainting him of this circumstance, that he might give orders for parties to proceed against them, that these banditti may be routed; and there is not the least doubt that, if Mr. Young had been in the house, he must have fallen a sacrifice to their ferocity, for the negroes that were there, say they were very anxious to lay hold of him.

As soon as they sprung out of the woods (I had a mulatto groom attending my horses in the stable, close to the wood), they hallooed to hold him, or shoot him; upon which one of them presented his firelock, but the lad had the recollection of hunting two Spanish hounds after them, which I had from colonel Gibson; one of which seized one of the negroes, and another of those negroes struck at him, and cut off half his ear; and immediately three of them sprung into the house, and hallooed where Mr. Young was; the two hounds followed them there, and there not being play enough for the dogs to act, they unfortunately cut one to pieces.

I am,

1798.

Mercurii, 13^o Junii.

I am, SIR, your most obedient humble servant,
The honourable James Irving, esquire.

JAMES M'GHIE.

JAMAICA, to wit, Trelawny.

John Young, of the parish of Trelawny, in the county of Cornwall, and island aforesaid, planter, overseer on Coxheath pen, in the same parish, belonging to James M'Ghie, esquire, being duly sworn, maketh oath, and saith, that, on Wednesday the fourteenth day of February instant, this deponent was on business at Windsor pen, adjoining to Coxheath, when a mulatto groom, belonging to the said James M'Ghie, by the name of Archer, who resides on Coxheath aforesaid, came running to this deponent, and informed him, that since this deponent had left Coxheath pen, three runaways belonging to the said James M'Ghie, named Cuffee, March, and Polydore, which are the names of three negroes belonging to the said James M'Ghie, two of whom, Polydore and March, had run away on the twelfth day of October, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-five, and the other of whom, Cuffee, had run away on the eighteenth of September, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-seven, as by the giving-in to the vestry, on this deponent's oath, may appear, rushed out of the woods near the stable on Coxheath, all armed with guns and cutlasses, and made an attack upon the said slave, named Archer, who escaped from them by running; that Cuffee called out to the others "shoot that mulatto rascal;" but he continued to run, and the three runaways passed him without afterwards molesting him, and rushed into the house; that Archer set on two Spanish dogs at them, and proceeded immediately to this deponent; and this deponent further saith, on this relation from Archer, to which this deponent gave full credit, as he had left Coxheath not much more than half an hour before, he, this deponent, immediately went through the woods to Coxheath, accompanied by Mr. M'Nish, the overseer, and Mr. Brown, the carpenter and sawyer of Windsor, all armed with guns, and furnished with ammunition; that, on their arrival there, they found four other white persons, all armed in like manner, in the house, saw one of the dogs lying dead near the house; and, upon entering the house, found a bureau broke open, out of which were taken a powder-horn, with four loads of gunpowder, about four flints, and a few balls; three guns, two hangers, a pair of pistols, and a number of articles of wearing apparel belonging to this deponent were also taken away; the store-door was also broke open, and some provisions taken out; two bags of bullets were also in the store, and several others were in the house, but only a few, as above stated, were taken away; and this deponent further saith, that, upon strict and diligent enquiry among Mr. M'Ghie's negroes on the property, this deponent was informed by the most confidential, that the three runaways above named, had committed the thefts and depredations above set forth; that, after they had taken away some of the articles, they were carried to the woods, and were delivered to the others; who, from the information next mentioned, must have been nine in number at least, and the three again returned, and took away other articles; and this deponent further saith, that one of Mr. Scarlett's watchmen, at an adjoining property, informed this deponent, that on the same day he saw the three, after their return from Coxheath, who told the watchmen, that nine others were gone towards Windsor, with an intent, if possible, to burn the house; that the same information was given to this deponent by a watchman at Reserve mountain; and this deponent further saith, that the negroes on Coxheath also informed this deponent, that the runaways were anxious to have seen Mr. M'Ghie, and this deponent; and declared, that they would have certainly murdered this deponent, if

John Young's affidavit.

C

they

they could have found him; and told them also, "that Mr. McGhie might perhaps cut-down two cane-pieces this year, but that he should not cut down three;" and this deponent further saith, he verily believes the several relations above-mentioned to be true, and that he has been informed, that the runaways have two or three settlements in the woods, to the southward.

JOHN YOUNG.

Sworn before me (being first duly stamped), this 19th February, 1798.

JAMES IRVING.

No. 2.

Trelawny, Stewart-Castle, April 6th, 1798.

MY LORD,

Letter from Mr.
Stewart.

In the absence of Mr. Irving, the custos, I beg leave to represent to you the daring acts recently committed by the runaway slaves in this parish: On the second instant, about 11 o'clock at night, they attacked and plundered the house of a Mr. Navin, and would have murdered him, but for the intercession of a woman who lived with him; and, as they chose to sav, in consideration of his not having gone out in the party; from Mr. Navin's, they proceeded to Red-hill house, where a Mr. Dickson lately lived, which they plundered and burnt down; and from thence they went to Mr. Shacklock's, which they also burnt and destroyed; about ten or a dozen of them appeared armed with firelocks and swords: I have taken Mr. Navin's affidavit relating to the above circumstances, from the clerk of the peace; which I have hereby the honour of transmitting to you. The evil now begins to wear a very serious aspect; and, unless some proper remedy is timely applied, bad consequences are soon to be apprehended from it; many of the back settlements are already abandoned, and the families of some of the proprietors of the estates in that vicinity are removing to situations of more safety. I hope your lordship will pardon my observing, that the only way of getting hold of these miscreants is by stratagem, and not by a promiscuous body of militia parading about the country, several days before they attempt any thing. If your lordship thought it proper to order twenty five of the Accompong maroons to come through the Black Grounds, from St. Elizabeth's, privately, to me or any other gentleman whom your lordship may be pleased to honour with your commands, I am confident this evil could be effectually destroyed, and without putting the country to any risque or much expence.

I am, very respectfully, MY LORD, your lordship's humble servant,

JAMES STEWART.

P. S. I am concerned to find, that the runaways got a considerable quantity of gunpowder at Dickson's house.

J. S.

JAMAICA, *ff.*—Trelawny.

Patrick Navin's affidavit.

Patrick Navin, of the parish of Trelawny, and island aforesaid, planter, came this day before me, and being duly sworn, maketh oath, and saith, that, on Monday night last past, about twelve o'clock, he this deponent being in bed, was alarmed by the noise of sundry negroes, round about his house, to which they set fire, and five or six negro men immediately entered the said house, each of whom carrying two guns, when they surrounded deponent; and a negro named Cuffee, belonging to James McGhie, and another he does not know, presented their guns (which were cocked) at deponent's breast, threatening to shoot him, if he attempted to move, and demanding of him to give them gunpowder; when he replied, "that he had none to give them;" that presently after, the said Cuffee, with a large sword or cut-

lass,

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lafs, made an attempt at deponent's neck, to cut his head off: when the said sword was seized hold of by Mary Chapman, a free woman of colour, who is deponent's house-keeper, by which his life was saved; they again threatened to shoot him, if he did not give them gunpowder, and began searching the house, and found about two hundred balls of different sizes, a gun, and one pistol, which they took with them; they likewise robbed deponent of all his cloaths and liquors that were in the house, and of every thing else that suited them; they then proceeded to a neighbouring house, belonging to Robert Dickson, on the road side, near the lagoon, which they burnt to the ground, and then to the next adjoining house, belonging to John Shacklock, a free man of colour, which they also burnt to the ground: Deponent further saith, that Cuffee appeared to be the commander of the party.

PAT. NAVIN.

Sworn before me, this 4th April, 1798.

ADRIAN REID.

No. 3.

MY LORD,

Falmouth, 14th April, 1798.

From the accounts received daily from our frontier settlements, and particularly in the vicinity of Coxheath pen, in this parish, there can no longer exist a doubt, but that the runaways collected in that quarter, mean to commit every kind of hostility and depredation.

Letter from the magistrates and vestry of Trelawny.

They have of late burned the houses on several of those settlements, and have threatened the lives of the white people residing thereon; a Mr. Navin has had a very narrow escape, by the intercession of his house-keeper, and his own supplication; and, which is the extent of the danger, that the proprietors of some of those interior settlements are returning to the lowlands for safety, which the inclosures will more particularly prove to your lordship: Their numbers are by no means ascertained, but they begin to act with a seeming determination to produce disturbance; and we cannot foresee the consequences, if they are not speedily suppressed: We, therefore, on the behalf of the inhabitants of this parish, beg leave to represent this increasing evil to your lordship, with full confidence that such measures will be taken, as the urgency and importance of the case require.

We have the honour to remain, your lordship's humble servants,

JAMES IRVING, THOMAS REID *jun.* JAMES STEWART, *justices.*

EDWARD KNOWLES, JOHN GAYNER, THOMAS STONEY, JOHN

REID GALLIMORE, ANDREW GAIRDNER, JOHN WATSON,

URQUHART GILLESPIE, *vestrymen.*

JAMAICA, *ff.*—*Trelawny.*

William James Stevenson, of the parish of Trelawny aforesaid, esquire, being duly sworn, maketh oath, and saith, that, on Thursday last the twelfth instant, this deponent visited Peru estate, in this parish, in charge of this deponent, as one of the guardians of three infants, the co-heiresses of James Scarlett junior, esquire, deceased; when this deponent found that the second driver on that property, named Boatswain, had, at shell blow, on the day before, harangued several of his countrymen and others, Mundingoes and Coromantees, and invited them to accompany him into the woods, in order to join the other rebel runaways in that neighbourhood; that the slave named Boatswain, on the same night, returned to the estate, when he was apprehended by the overseer, and immediately confined in the stocks, with three other slaves of that property, who had run away in the life-time of Mr. Scarlett, but

W. J. Stevenson's affidavit.

but had returned to the property: And this deponent further saith, that he did not learn the particulars above-mentioned, or any thing of the disposition of Boatswain, until Thursday, the day first mentioned, when this deponent called at Peru, after having been at Green-Vale, another property of the said infants: And, as it was late in the day before this deponent left Peru, or arrived there, this deponent left directions, that Boatswain should be sent down to the workhouse at Falmouth the next morning, under a sufficient guard; And this deponent further saith, that, during the night of the twelfth, as this deponent is informed, and firmly believes, Boatswain, and the three other runaways, found means to escape from their confinement at midnight, by the assistance of persons unknown, but supposed to be by one or more of the slaves of Peru, friendly to Boatswain; who, in the most silent manner, cut open the window of the room in which they were confined, burnt the wood-work of the stocks, and tore away the iron-work: Another negro, who was lame from his own neglect, was in confinement at the same time; his life was threatened, if he should speak a word; he was obliged to remain silent till the others made their escape, by which time his ankle was much burnt: And this deponent further saith, that, as he is informed, and verily believes, Boatswain hath repeatedly threatened violence to some of the white people employed by Mr. Scarlett, and is now bent on mischief, and threatens to bring Cuffee, the chief of Mr. McGhie's runaways, to take off the crop; meaning, as this deponent conjectures, to assist Cuffee in burning the works; and this deponent further saith, that one of the three other runaways above-mentioned from Peru, named Philander, is returned, and declares, that Boatswain threatened to kill him, if he did not go away with him; and further, that Mrs. Scarlett, and her family, have some time ago thought it advisable to quit, and did actually quit, the property, apprehensive that some act of violence would be there committed, by the runaways in that neighbourhood.

WILLIAM JAMES STEVENSON.

Sworn before me, this 14th day of April, 1798.

JAMES GALLOWAY.

No. 4.

MY LORD,

Falmouth, 19th April, 1798.

Letter from custos
and magistrates of
Trelawny.

We are honoured with your favour of the 17th instant, referring us to your letter to Mr. Stewart of the 10th, for your sentiments on the subject of the runaways, and expressing your lordship's desire, that we will watch over the progress of these rioters with an anxious eye: We lament exceedingly the necessity that now impels us to send you this express, to give you the earliest information of their attacking, yesterday evening, the house of messieurs Steele and Paulett; which continued, from information we have just received, till after sun-rise this morning; and that messieurs Paulett and Biggs are severely wounded, and Mr. Kew killed: The justices have taken your lordship's letter to Mr. Stewart into consideration, and have come to a determination to provide colonel Gibson with every necessary that he may be pleased to require: With anxious hopes that, from your lordship's exertions, this alarming evil may be soon suppressed, we have the honour to be, with great respect, your lordship's most obedient humble servants,

JOHN GAYNER,

JOHN MITCHELL,

WM. J. STEVENSON,

J. WATSON.

JAMES IRVING,

JAMES STEWART,

JAMES GALLOWAY,

WM. BENNETT,

The right honourable earl Balcarres.

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No. 5.

The honourable James Irving, esquire,

Our alarming situation at this present being of a very alarming nature, we think it necessary you should be made acquainted; same time hoping you will endeavour to afford us some assistance: We have not a doubt you have, before this, been made acquainted of the depredations the runaways in this quarter are daily committing; two houses above the lagoon were burnt to the ground, on Monday night last, and plundered of every thing that was moveable; likewise carried with them a negro woman belonging to us; one of us would wait on you, and inform you more particularly respecting this alarming business, but we do not consider it safe to leave our property, being reported they mean to make an attack on this place their next fall out.

We are, respectfully, SIR, your most obedient humble servants,
Venture, 6th April, 1798.

STEEL & PAULETT.

No 6.

JAMAICA, ff.—*Trelawny.*

Thomas Johnston, of the parish and island aforesaid, carpenter, being duly sworn, maketh oath, and faith, that, on the eighteenth day of April last, in the afternoon of the said day, he this deponent was at his house, on the settlement called Gray's Inn, when a negro of his, named Jemie (whom he had placed as a sentinel to watch the motions of the runaways, who he understood were in that neighbourhood), came running up to deponent, and told him, that the runaways had attacked Steel and Paulett's house, and had fired a great number of shot; upon which he, this deponent, called up eight or nine of his own negro men, whom he could trust; to five of whom he gave guns, and three rounds of ball-cartridges to each, beside one charge in each gun; to others he gave cutlasses, and proceeded with the whole; himself being armed with a sword and a pair of pistols, to go to the assistance of Steel and Paulett; that, when he got in view of the house, he could not see any person, either black or white; he then thought it advisable to send three negroes forward, to endeavour to find out the cause of the firing; when they got within shot, they were fired at from the house; a ball passed through one of their frocks; upon which one of them called out to those in the house, not to fire, as they belonged to him, this deponent, and were coming to their assistance; the negro called to Mr. Steel, to know what was the matter; upon which deponent heard Mr. Steel call out, "matter enough," and desired deponent's negroes to return, as they could not be able to get to his assistance; that deponent stopped a few minutes, until his people came back; during which time he heard several guns fired round about the house, but could not learn what damage had been done; that he then returned to his own house, and placed sentinels all round, and kept guard himself all night, in expectation of being attacked every minute; that, after day-light, he kept the same guard, till about eight or nine of the clock, when he saw the runaways set fire to and burn down a house within hearing; and they, at same time, calling to deponent, telling him, "they were coming to eat second breakfast with him;" that he, seeing them too numerous for him, he took the arms from his own negroes, and left house and every thing else to their mercy, and got over to Coxheath pen; all the arms safely secured.

THOMAS JOHNSTON.

Sworn before me, this 25th May, 1798.

WM. BENNETT.

Vera copia, A. BLACKBURN, cl. pacis.

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The above evidence and information was given to the committee of justices, who were met on the 20th of last month, after the express sent to his honour the lieutenant-governor, dated the 19th, but not reduced to writing or sworn to until the above date.

No. 7.

JAMAICA. *ff.—Trelawny.*

Affidavit of H. Paulett, and A. Steel.

Henry Paulett and Alexander Steel, of the parish and island aforesaid, planters, being duly sworn, severally depose and say, that, on the afternoon of the eighteenth of last month, about four of the clock, they, these deponents, and Joseph Biggs and Thomas Kew, were sitting down in the piazza of their house, on a settlement called Venture, in the parish aforesaid; when they were suddenly alarmed by a quadroon woman, named Rebecca Pleasure Wilton, who came running into the house, and informed them, that it was surrounded by a body of runaway negroes, with arms; that they immediately jumped up, ran into the different rooms of the house, and got arms and ammunition; that, immediately after, deponent Steel and Thomas Kew, having taken their stations at the back door, one on each side, a shot was fired by one of the runaways, which went through Kew's head, and killed him dead on the spot; that the deponent, Henry Paulett, and Joseph Biggs, had taken their station in one of the rooms, at a window, when another shot was fired by the runaways, which wounded them both, raising the skin of Paulett's breast, and passing through the right shoulder of the said Joseph Biggs; that, at this instant of time, a negro man slave named Billy, who is these deponents driver, came running into the house, and took up the arms which the said Thomas Kew had before he was killed, and stood by them, firing at the runaways whenever he could get sight of them:

That, during the time the action continued, until twelve of the clock at night, the runaways attempted five different times to burn the house, but that the above negro named Billy as often put the fire out, at the manifest risque of his life; the runaways frequently calling to him, saying, "You d——d Chamba cut-faced son of a b——h, you put fire out, ay; we will do for you;" they firing at him, and he returning the same, as soon as he got the fires out:

That the runaways, about this time, sent a party to kill the goats in the pen, whilst the others remained round the house; that deponent Steel, hearing them pulling the goats over the wall, fired a shot amongst them, and received another in return; and they called to him, saying, "You lie, you think we are going to leave you; no, we will wait for you until day-light:" That they carried off four goats, and there was no more firing from that time until about eight of the clock next morning; when, several of these deponents negroes were come round about the house, to see what damage had been done, a shot was fired from the face of the hill behind the house, which came through the back entry, and struck the hall-door: That, about this time, deponents observed a house belonging to them to be on fire (which is the house alluded to in Thomas Johnston's affidavit), in which house was consumed about 1200 *lbs.* weight of cured coffee, and about 3000 *lbs.* weight of yams, with a great many carpenters tools: That deponents soon after this, pulled out a window in the front piazza, and threwed out every thing that was of value, for their negroes to carry away, and made their escape through the woods to Duan-Vale estate, about one of the clock in the afternoon, with their arms and ammunition that was remaining; they having expended a great quantity during the action, in the afternoon and night: That these deponents, during the afternoon, could never

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never discover above ten of the runaways, but after dark could have no knowledge of their numbers.

HENRY PAULETT,
ALEXANDER STEEL.

Sworn before me, this 26th May, 1798.

WM. BENNETT.

Vera copia, A. BLACKBURN, cl. pacis.

No. 8.

MY LORD,

Falmouth, 24th April, 1798.

I am honoured with your letter of the 21st instant, and have submitted it to the consideration of the justices, who daily meet to render assistance in these alarming times, to such measures as may be deemed beneficial for the public safety; it is to be hoped the posts now occupied by the 83d regiment, will be a temporary check to the further progress of these insurgents: The second point you wish to impress, as the only rational mode of reducing these people, by raising two hundred confidential slaves, and a return of them to be made to you, for the approbation of the assembly, and which mode you say ought to be adjusted by us: I beg leave to state that, it will be extremely difficult to fix on the number of confidential slaves, as recommended by your lordship, in this parish; with concurrence of the justices, I take the liberty to submit the following measure to your consideration, as a resource, in case it may be necessary to move against the runaways, before the meeting of the assembly: That colonel Bell be ordered to fit out, under the party act passed in the last sessions, one or two parties, to be composed of men judiciously selected for the service: That the party or parties shall consist of white men, who have been habituated to wood service, free people of colour, and confidential slaves; several of the latter may be employed, who served faithfully during the maroon war, and the persons who received their freedom from the country, with annuities during life, as a reward for their faithful services: That it is conceived a party or parties so formed, will be able to keep out almost constantly, and may be easily supported.

Letter from the
custos of Trelawny.

The justices request you will please to accept their sincere thanks, for the attention you pay to the alarming situation of this parish, by ordering a reinforcement of the 83d regiment to our assistance.

I have the honour to be, with the greatest respect, your lordship's most obedient servant,

The right honourable earl Balcarres.

JAMES IRVING.

No. 9.

Extract of a letter from Trelawny, dated 1st May, 1798.

In a minute's recollection, the following people occur to me that have left their properties, and retired to places of safety; viz.

Extract of a letter
from Trelawny.

Steel and Paulett, a considerable coffee plantation, and gang of negroes; Reid and Brisbane, jobbers; McDorman, jobber; McKane, jobber; Fleming, jobber; Shacklock, carpenter; Navin, jobber; Wills, jobber; Dickson, carpenter; Mrs. Graves, widow, with several children; Mrs. Watt, and family; Houghthead, jobber; Patterson, jobber; Alexander Edgar, jobber.

No. 10.

Extract of a letter from Mr. William Green, dated at Good Hope, Trelawny, 15th May, 1798.

On Sunday the runaways were at Pantre Pant, drove all the negroes out of their grounds,

Extract of a letter
from Mr. W. Green.

grounds, and occasioned a most dreadful alarm; they set fire to a house joining Pantre-Pant, till the regulars and white people moved quick, and got there in time to extinguish the fire; they told the negroes, "that they were come down to fight the whites;" and last word, "that if they would go up to a settlement, about a mile aback of Pantre-Pant, called Reid and Brisbane's, they would give them their belly-full of fighting!" However, the runaways thought proper not to try it; in half an hour after the alarm, we were in good force at Pantre-Pant; but the banditti must have good generals amongst them, the party that were in the lowlands had another on the hills in sight, to cover their retreat: The maroons must have left in the woods, not only an immense quantity of arms, but a considerable quantity of ammunition; if this business is not soon checked, I am fearful of its turning out a second St. Domingo war; their numbers are daily increasing, by disaffected negroes joining them.

Extract of a letter from George Brissett, esquire, dated Mahogany-Hall, Trelawny, 15th May, 1798.

Extract of a letter
from George Brissett, esquire.

I am truly sorry to say, that the depredations committed by the runaways, are of too serious a nature, if not immediately put a stop to; they are both increasing in numbers and confidence every day; and, from the measures adopted, I don't find we stand much chance of destroying them soon: I understand there are parties sent from St. Elizabeth's, and one went from this place, last week; the regulars are stationed in several places next the woods; but, could the Accompong maroons be sent (and I am told they are very anxious to go, from the high rewards offered) they would be the surest means of effecting the business; under a pretence of guarding their wives and children, some of the militia could be sent into their town, which would effectually secure their fidelity; delays are dangerous, and more particularly so on the present occasion; and, if it is not now checked, God only knows the consequences: Knowles's negroes (whose settlement they burnt in the Black Grounds, where they killed a man of colour who would not join them) report that they intend to attack this place soon, and Sportsman's Hall; and what makes the business the more to be dreaded is, that they are gaining strength daily; and, as they have no wives or children to attach them to one place, like the maroons, their depredations may extend a great way: I have been thus particular, as I conceive it very necessary that the legislature should interfere; and hope you will pardon me, for thus giving my opinion so freely; but the danger we are now threatened with, is much worse than that occasioned by the maroons.

No. 11.

St. Elizabeth, Black-River, 28th April, 1798.

Letter from Mr.
White and Mr.
Colquhoun.

MY LORD,

In consequence of alarming intelligence this day received, of a party of fifty or sixty runaway slaves, well armed, coming out of the woods on a mountain settlement lying about two miles from Oxford estate, in this parish, killing a free man of colour, and completely destroying the plantation, we thought it our duty to request lieutenant Fellowes, commanding a detachment of the 20th regiment of dragoons, quartered at Black-River barracks, to repair to Oxford estate, with all possible expedition, with as many of his men as he thought fit for service, to preserve that district from the incursions of this merciless enemy; well knowing your lordship's promptitude in repressing these daring insurrections, we trust you will approve of our conduct.

We have the honour to be, your lordship's most obedient humble servants,

The right honourable earl Balcarres.

JOHN WHITE,
HUMPHRY COLQUHOUN.

No.

No. 12.

Extract of a letter from lieutenant-general the earl of Balcarres, addressed to messieurs White and Colquhoun.

GENTLEMEN,

Tuesday, 1st May.

My opinion upon the mode of following and attacking the parties of armed banditti, who infest your back settlements, is as follows:

Lord Balcarres, in
reply to the above.

I conceive that the militia, however respectable in other respects, are not well calculated to follow and to reduce these riotous runaways:

That the regular troops are not up to it:

The confidential slaves, under the denomination of black shot, are the description of force best calculated to effect this service.

No. 13.

At a meeting of the magistrates and field officers of the St. Elizabeth's regiment of militia, held at Black-River, this 5th day of May, 1798, by order of the commander in chief, to take into consideration the situation of the said parish, with respect to certain runaway slaves in rebellion, in the neighbourhood of Hector's River, and the steps necessary to be taken for quelling of the same:

1st. *Resolved, unanimously*, That the information received, of the act of rebellion committed by the said runaway slaves, on the night of the 26th ultimo, at the plantation belonging to Michael Wroth Kean, near Oxford estate, and the murder there committed by them on a free mulatto man, the overseer on the said plantation, appear to be authentic, according to the documents produced to this meeting by John White, esquire.

Proceedings of magistrates and field officers of St. Elizabeth.

2^d. *Resolved*, That, in consequence of such information, it is absolutely necessary that the most vigorous measures be immediately taken, for the quelling of the said rebellion, and to ensure the safety of the island in general, and this parish in particular; and that, for this purpose, such parties be immediately fitted out, as shall appear necessary to major-general Brereton, for effecting the same.

3^d. *Resolved*, That, as the militia of this parish appear to be inadequate to the suppression of the said insurrection, major-general Brereton be requested to apply to the commander in chief, for such further assistance, from the respective regiments of militia, of the several parishes in the county of Cornwall and Middlesex, as may appear necessary for the service in question.

4th. *Resolved*, That this meeting, having taking into consideration the proposal of the commander in chief, for fitting out parties of black shot, are humbly of opinion, that the maroons of Accompong-Town, from their knowledge of the country, may be employed with better effect; and are, in every respect, more eligible, and more to be confided in, and who have already signified to colonel Kowe, their readiness to co-operate with the militia to be employed in this service.

5th. *Resolved, unanimously*, That the thanks of this meeting be presented to the commander in chief, for his ready attention to the interest of the country, and this parish in particular, in investing the command on an officer of so much experience and discretion, as this meeting are fully convinced.

JOHN WHITE, *chairman*.

No. 14.

MY LORD,

Falmouth, 15th May, 1798.

I was honoured with your lordship's favours of the 28th ultimo, and also of the 12th instant.

Letter from colonel Bell.

On receiving your lordship's of the 28th, I immediately set about forming a
E party,

party, agreeable to your idea, and it has exactly been conformable to my own, since the beginning of this business; but your lordship will be much surpris'd, when I inform you, that it was with difficulty I could form a party of any kind; and, when they did move, it was with the same number of black and white, neither would they go without; on the other side is an extract from captain Knowles, dated the 11th, which was the night before he march'd; his number was completed that night; they are gone to Mouth-River, and over to St. Elizabeth's side, in order to co-operate with any parties that may be out under the orders of major-general Brereton.

When this party returns, though I expect no good from it, I shall send out another, if possible, without I have your lordship's orders to the contrary; I can assure your lordship, that fitting out parties is an up-hill business; and, until matters become serious, it will ever be so; all say such and such things ought and must be done, but every one wishes to put the burthen on his neighbour's shoulders.

I fear I shall never be able to get ten white men to trust themselves with thirty or forty black shot; such is the present opinion, and there are men that wish to force that in every company.

I have honour to be, MY LORD, your lordship's faithful and obedient servant,

ROBERT BELL.

Extract from captain Knowles, C. T. R.

Extract from captain Knowles.

The proportion of the black shot is too great for the whites; and, unless I get more whites, I shall not go over the hills, as I at first propos'd.

Return of the party: 2 commissioned officers, 20 rank and file, 20 black shot, 20 baggage men.

No. 15.

JAMAICA, ff.—*Trilawny*.

At a meeting of the justices of this parish, at the town of Falmouth, the 24th day of May, 1798:

Present, the honourable JAMES IRVING, esquire, custos; JAMES STEWART, EDWARD KNOWLES, WILLIAM JAMES STEVENSON, JOHN MITCHELL, esquires, justices.

The examination of a negro man slave named Peter, belonging to Peru estate:

Examination of Peter, belonging to Peru.

Sets forth, that on Sunday last he went to his ground, at the Thickets, and was there met by Cuffee and Polydore, belonging to James M'Ghie; who, knowing him to be formerly Young's Peter, and that he had been out with James M'Ghie in the last party, as one of the black shot (they being armed), took him by force, as also a boy, a creole, and an Eboe wench, also belonging to Peru estate, and carried them into the woods, where they were joined by twenty other negroes, all of whom were armed, with guns and pistols; that, shortly after, they were joined by twenty more, all of whom were also armed:

That, after conferring together, they all agreed to kill him, Peter, on account of his having been out against them; Cuffee and two others, armed with guns, then took him a little on one side, and cleared away the bushes, with an intention of killing him; that Cuffee then made a stroke at him with a cutlass, for the purpose of cutting off his head; which he warded off, and Cuffee fell; Peter says he then made a spring to get away, when the other two immediately snapt their guns at him, with intent to shoot him; but they not giving fire, enabled him to make his escape, he not having on any cloaths, and they were loaded with arms; that, during the time he was running away, he heard some of the other negroes calling to

Cuffee

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Cuffee (particularly a negro named Peter, belonging to Mr. Franklin) telling him, "he had better take care of himself, if he did not bring that negro's head in;" that he continued running until he got out of their sight, and reached the top of a hill, and got up in a tree, where he staid all day; and that yesterday he got out of the woods, at Windsor penn, about eight o'clock in the morning:

He saith, that he heard them determine to kill the boy, on account of his being a creole; that one negro man begged very hard to spare him; but he does not know what might have been their final determination:

Saith, that he saw two parties of the runaways, but was informed there was a third, consisting of thirty armed men, under the command of a young Congo negro man, who was a shipmate of one of those of Mr. M'Ghie's negroes, that were hanged after the maroon war; there was no woman with them who took him, but the woman belonging to Peru, that was taken with him; he says, before they took him into the woods, they desired him to tell the overseer on Peru estate, "that he must feed the negroes with flour, and not send them to the grounds for provisions; for if he did, they would cut their heads off;" saying, "that the provision-grounds all back belonged to them, the runaways:"

When in the woods, he heard them say, "they were determined to burn Fontabelle and Peru, and all the back settlements in that part of the country; and drive all the people that were there before them, that they might get room to go to Hampstead, to kill James M'Ghie;" Cuffee and Polydore declaring, "that if they once get him, they will be done."

A true copy.

No. 16.

No. 1.

Falmouth, 6th June, 1758.

MY LORD,

I inclose a letter, this instant received from Mr. M'Laine, as otherwise the false report which he alludes to, and which was brought here, might reach you: The truth turns out to be exactly as I conjectured, and a fine opportunity has been lost.

Letter from major-general M'Murdo.

I have the honour to be, MY LORD, your most obedient humble servant,

CHARLES M'MURDO, M. G. M.

P. S. I propose to visit Mr. M'Laine's party to-morrow morning.

The right honourable lieutenant-general the earl of Balcarres.

I have recommended it to Mr. M'Laine, to put the men who, in so dastardly a manner, deserted him, into confinement in the mean time; and we shall probably make a requisition to have them replaced.

(Copy.)

MY LORD,

Five of my men who deserted me, in a most cowardly manner last night, when I expected to come into action with the rebels, I understand have given a false alarm: I write your lordship, to ease your mind on this head, a particular account of the matter: I last night marched from Caledonia to Brisbane's settlement, choosing the cover of the night to elude the vigilance of their sentinels, where I was well informed they were wont to sleep frequently: As soon as I approached the negro-houses, I observed a strong fire kindled in a house immediately above, belonging to a Mr. Rattray; which I was certain could be made by no others than the rebels, as I had the day before ordered all the watchmen from the back settlements; I formed my men into two divisions, ordering my lieutenant, Dobson, to take the command of the

Letter from captain M'Laine.

the party I intended to lay in ambuscade under the hill, whilst I myself went by a track which furrounded the house; most unluckily for our expedition, some of my raw recruits mistook one of my men for an enemy, and shot him dead; he was named Cato, and belonged to docter Largie, St. James: This accident gave Cuffee and his party the alarm, who fired a shot at us, and blew his horn, and beat his drum; challenging us to wait till the moon shone, and then he would try what metal we were made of: I disposed my men for battle, and waited his approach, but the coward was not so good as his word; however, my lord, I expect to force him to give me battle one of these days, when I hope to give a good account of him, and his party.

I have the honour to be, your lordship's most obedient and most humble servant,
LAUCHLAN M'LAINÉ, captain St. James's black shot.

Pantre-Pant post, 6th June, 1798.

(Private.)

No. 17.

Oxford, the 5th of June, 1798.

Letter from major-general Brereton.

MY LORD,

I used every possible exertion in my power to promote your lordship's views, in getting black shot assembled for the intended ensuing service; but finding it impracticable, I thought it right to accept of such aid as would be granted me, which is chiefly composed of the militia: The prevailing arguments that are used here, against putting arms into the hands of slaves, are the ideas of subverting their subordination by giving them ideas of liberty and equality; and were they to send good and confidential slaves, the inefficacy of the present law, in only allowing one hundred pounds for the value of such black shot, or confidential slave, when they say it is notorious to every person acquainted with the colony, that such negroes are really worth two or three hundred pounds each, throws another prevailing obstacle in their being sent: These, with many other arguments, are the principles that have impeded the attornies and proprietors of estates, in this parish, from sending, upon the present service, only 22 black shot instead of 100 that I requested, for which warrants were issued by the commissioners; who could only generally dictate to the several estates, the proprietors and managers of which estates only complied with the letter, through necessity, without paying any attention to the spirit, of the present party law.

This, amongst many other circumstances, will shew your lordship the difficulties I have had to encounter, and how little the general good of the colony is considered: I have, however, acted for the best.

I am, MY LORD, most faithfully and truly your's,

ROBERT BRERETON.

Right honourable earl Balcarres, &c. &c.

No. 18.

Extract of a letter from lieutenant-general the earl of Balcarres, to major-general Brereton, dated Spanish-Town, June 9th, 1798.

Lord Balcarres, in reply to the above.

Your private letter of June 5th, is, in every sense, a public letter; and I am bound to consider it as such.

Second message.

"MR. SPEAKER,

"I am commanded by his honour the lieutenant-governor to state to the house,

house, that as far as he has been able to ascertain, either from evidence or information, the numbers of the rebels, under the command of a negro slave named Cuffee, amount to forty-three; the usual station of this party is in the neighbourhood of Windsor, in the parish of Trelawny: He has reason also to think, that there is another party, in the same parish, of thirty rebels, under the command of Peter, a slave of Mr. Francklyn's, who was out in the maroon insurrection:

Message from lieutenant-governor, respecting the numbers of the rebels.

"His honour cannot ascertain, with any precision, whether this rebel force is exclusive, or inclusive, of the armed force who lately infested the parish of St. Elizabeth:

"His honour has no hesitation in giving his opinion, that many negroes in the vicinity of the seat of rebellion, are ill disposed."

Ordered,

That the above two messages, and the papers therewith sent, be referred to the committee of the whole house, to enquire into and take into consideration the state of the island.

Referred to state of the island.

Then the house adjourned till to-morrow morning, nine of the clock.

By virtue of an order of the house, I do appoint Alexander Aikman to print these Notes, and that no other person do presume to print the same.

KEAN OSBORN, Speaker, pro tempore.

Tobis, 14^o die Junii, 1798.

THE engrossed address to his honour the lieutenant-governor was read, in the words following:

"JAMAICA, ff,

"To the right honourable ALEXANDER earl of BALCARRES, lieutenant-governor and commander in chief of this his majesty's island of Jamaica, and the territories thereon depending in America, chancellor and vice-admiral of the same,

"THE HUMBLE ADDRESS OF THE ASSEMBLY.

"MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOUR,

"We, his majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the assembly of Jamaica, return your honour our thanks for your speech at the opening of the present session.

Engrossed address

"The information communicated to us by your honour, that daring outrages have been committed in the leeward parts of the island, by runaway slaves associated for rebellious purposes, demands our most serious consideration.

F

"The

"The measures taken by your honour to fit out parties, and to send them into the woods to follow the rebels, and to reduce them, we trust will prove effectual.

"We concur with your lordship in the opinion, that in these times of general danger, it becomes indispensably necessary to attend, with the utmost vigilance and energy, to the commencement of any insurrection.

"Whenever public exigencies require the legislature to be convened, it is our duty to attend, waving all considerations of private inconvenience; and, on the present occasion, we beg leave to assure your lordship, that we shall take into immediate consideration all such matters as you shall be pleased to lay before us, in which the welfare of the community may be implicated, in the fullest confidence of your lordship's co-operation and concurrence in such measures as may be most proper to be adopted.

"We shall make provision for the expences already incurred, and for such further expences as may be necessary, to quell the present disturbances and effectually to secure the tranquillity of the country.

"The papers explanatory of the existing disorders, which your lordship is pleased to say are to be laid before us, shall receive that deliberation which their importance requires from us, in the framing or amending of such laws, as may be best suited to the present exigency."

Resolved,

passed.

That the said address do pass:

Ordered,

That the following message be sent to his honour the lieutenant-governor:

"MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOUR,

Message to his honour.

"We are ordered by the house to wait on your honour, and to acquaint you, that having an humble address to present, they desire to know when you will please to be attended."

Ordered,

His honour appoints to be attended by the house.

That Mr. Cuthbert and Mr. Johnson be a committee to wait on his honour with the above message; who returning, reported the delivery thereof, and that his honour was pleased to say, in an hour.

Foreign slave bill presented.

Mr. Shirley, according to order, presented to the house, a bill for vesting certain powers in the magistrates of the several parishes of this island, respecting foreign slaves; and for other purposes; which was received, and read the first time:

Ordered,

That the said bill be read a second time, to-morrow.

Letters of marque instructions bill presented.

Mr. Shirley, according to order, presented to the house, a bill for enforcing the instructions given to all captains or commanding officers, of ships and vessels having letters of marque and reprisals against the enemy; which was received, and read the first time:

Ordered,

That the said bill be read a second time, to-morrow.

The

The hour being expired, Mr. Speaker, *pro tempore*, with the whole house, went up to attend his honour the lieutenant-governor, to present their address; and being returned; Mr. Speaker, *pro tempore*, reported, that the house had attended his honour the lieutenant-governor, and presented their address; to which his honour was pleased to return an answer; of which, Mr. Speaker, *pro tempore*, said he had, to prevent mistakes, obtained a copy; and the same being read, was ordered to be entered, and is as follows:

House attends his honour with their address.

“MR. SPEAKER, AND GENTLEMEN OF THE ASSEMBLY,

“I thank you most sincerely for this address:

“Nothing can contribute more effectually to the safety and welfare of the island, than the sentiments you have been pleased to express; and you may depend upon my concurring in every measure, which has for its object the prosperity of this community.”

Lieutenant-governor's answer.

A message from his honour the lieutenant-governor, by his secretary, as follows:

“MR. SPEAKER,

“I am commanded by his honour the lieutenant-governor to lay before the house, a letter from the duke of Portland, inclosing one from the post-master-general to his grace, respecting the station of the packets at Jamaica; and his honour requests the opinion of the house upon it, in order to enable him to make his report accordingly.

Message from lieutenant-governor, with letters from duke of Portland, &c. respecting station of packets.

“MY LORD,

Whitehall, 30th March, 1798.

“Inclosed I transmit your lordship a copy of a letter which I have received from the post-master-general, relative to the changing the station of the packets from Kingston to Port-Morant; and I am to desire that you will, after communicating with the legislature of the island, report to me your sentiments thereon.

“I am, MY LORD, your lordship's most obedient humble servant,

“Earl of Balcarras.

PORTLAND.”

[Copy.]

General-Post-Office, March 26th, 1798.

“MY LORD,

“The merchants trading to Jamaica having represented to us, that it might materially facilitate the return of their letters from that island, if the station of the packets could be changed from Kingston to Port-Morant, with the approbation of the “island legislature;” we beg leave to recommend to your grace, to cause such application to be made, as shall ascertain whether this alteration can be objected to on the part of the island legislature, as we are not aware of any official objections ourselves, and we are anxious to aid the merchants, in any object that may increase the accommodation they derive from the packets in our service.

“We have the honour to be, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed)

“His grace the duke of Portland.

LEICESTER,
AUCKLAND.”

Ordered,

That the above message, and the letters therewith sent, be referred to the committee

Referred to committee

mittee on state of
the island.

mittee of the whole house, to enquire into and take into consideration the state of the island:

Then the house resolved itself into such committee:

Mr. Speaker, *pro tempore*, left the chair.

Mr. Irving took the chair of the committee.

Mr. Speaker, *pro tempore*, resumed the chair.

Report.

Mr. Irving, from the committee, reported one resolution, which he read in his place, and delivered in at the table, where being again read, was agreed unto by the house, and is follows:

Referred to a com-
mittee.

That it be recommended to the house, to refer his honour the lieutenant-governor's message of this day, and the letters therewith sent, to a special committee, and that they report their opinion thereon to the house:

Ordered,

That Mr. Fitch, Mr. Shaw, Mr. Jaques, Mr. Dawson, Mr. Grant, Mr. Mowat, and Mr. Reid, be a committee for that purpose:

Then Mr. Irving acquainted the house, that the committee had directed him to move the house for leave to sit again:

Resolved,

That this house will again, to-morrow, resolve itself into a committee of the whole house, to enquire into and take further into consideration the state of the island.

Motion for an alien
bill.

A motion being made, that a committee be appointed, to prepare and bring in a bill for establishing regulations respecting persons of a certain description, arriving in this island, or resident therein, in certain cases;

Ordered,

Committee ap-
pointed.

That Mr. Quier, Mr. Grant, and Mr. Macleod, be a committee for that purpose.

Ordered,

That the following message be sent to his honour the lieutenant-governor:

"MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOUR,

Message to lieute-
nant-governor, for a
list of naturalization
patents.

"We are ordered by the house to wait on your honour, and to request that you will be pleased to direct to be laid before the house, a list of all persons not being natural-born subjects of the crown of Great-Britain, to whom letters patent of naturalization have been granted, from the year 1790 to this day, distinguishing the names and native country of the several persons to whom such letters patent have been granted.

Ordered,

That Mr. Quier and Mr. Grant be a committee to wait on his honour with the above message; who returning, reported the delivery thereof, and that his honour was pleased to say, he would give directions accordingly.

Then the house adjourned till to-morrow morning, nine of the clock.

By virtue of an order of the house, I do appoint Alexander Aikman to print these Notes, and that no other person do presume to print the same.

KEAN OSBORN, *Speaker, pro tempore.*

Uencris,

1798.

Veneris, 15^o Junii.

61

Veneris, 15^o die Junii, 1798.

THE bill for vesting certain powers in the magistrates of the several parishes of this island, respecting foreign slaves; and for other purposes, was read a second time:

Foreign slave bill read second time.

Resolved,

That the said bill be committed to a committee of the whole house, on Monday next.

The bill for enforcing the instructions given to all captains or commanding officers, of ships and vessels having letters of marque and reprisals against the enemy, was read a second time:

Letters of marque instructions bill read second time.

Resolved,

That the said bill be committed to a committee of the whole house, on Monday next.

Mr. Quier, according to order, presented to the house, a bill for establishing regulations respecting persons of a certain description, arriving in this island, or resident therein, in certain cases; which was received, and read the first time:

Alien bill presented.

Ordered,

That the said bill be read a second time, on Monday next.

Mr. Fitch, from the committee, to whom his honour the lieutenant-governor's message of yesterday, and the letters therewith sent, were referred, reported,

Report from committee, respecting station of packets.

That, in the opinion of the committee, it would be extremely improper to change the station of the packets from Kingston to Port-Morant, as the conveyance of the mail, from the general-post-office in Kingston to that port, would, in the rainy seasons, be very precarious and uncertain, the rivers in the parishes of St. David and St. Thomas in the East being, for many days, impassable: A further objection arises, from the difficulty of sailing into and out of Port-Morant, which is attended with considerable danger and delay when the wind is not favourable; whereas the passage from Kingston to Port-Royal, and from thence to sea, may be effected without any material detention, as the king's ships stationed at Port-Royal can give their assistance, if necessary, in towing the packet out of the harbour; at Port-Morant no such aid can be expected; and, if the seamen desert, the packet must be delayed till the master can procure mariners from Kingston:

That the committee beg leave to observe, that if fast-sailing vessels were employed as packets (which has not generally been the case) the objection to the present arrangement would be obviated:

That other reasons might be urged against the alteration proposed, but the committee think the impropriety of the measure is so evident, that it requires no further observation.

Resolved,

That the house do agree to the report:

Agreed to.

Resolved,

That a message be sent to his honour the lieutenant-governor, with a copy of the above report.

Copy of it to be sent to lieutenant-governor.

G

Ordered,

Ordered,

That the following message be sent to his honour the lieutenant-governor :

" MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOUR,

Message to lieutenant-governor, with copy of report on station of packets.

" We are ordered by the house to wait on your honour, and to lay before you, a copy of a report from the committee, to whom your honour's message of yesterday, and the letters therewith sent, were referred, and to which report the house have agreed."

Ordered,

That Mr. Shaw and Mr. Hering be a committee to wait on his honour with the above message; who returning, reported the delivery thereof.

Leave to adjourn.

Mr. Speaker, *pro tempore*, acquainted the house, that he had his honour the lieutenant-governor's leave to adjourn the house, from time to time, as they should think proper.

Then the house adjourned till Monday morning next, nine of the clock.

By virtue of an order of the house, I do appoint Alexander Aikman to print these Notes, and that no other person do presume to print the same.

KEAN OSBORN, *Speaker, pro tempore*.

Lunæ, 18^o die Junii, 1798.

Alien bill read second time.

THE bill for establishing regulations respecting persons of a certain description arriving in this island, or resident therein, in certain cases, was read a second time:

Resolved,

That the said bill be committed to a committee of the whole house, to-morrow.

Leave of absence to Mr. Atkinson.

Mr. Speaker, *pro tempore*, laid before the house, a letter from Mr. Atkinson, mentioning, that business of a very pressing nature required his presence in England, and requesting leave of absence for twelve months:

Ordered,

That he have leave of absence for twelve months, accordingly.

Committee on state of the island:

The house, according to order, resolved itself into a committee of the whole house, to enquire into and take farther into consideration the state of the island:

Mr. Speaker, *pro tempore*, left the chair.

Mr. Irving took the chair of the committee.

Mr. Speaker, *pro tempore*, resumed the chair.

Report eight resolutions;

Mr. Irving, from the committee, reported eight resolutions, which he read in his place, and delivered in at the table; where the first resolution being again read, is as follows:

Resolved,

Resolved,

That it is the opinion of this committee, that the commander in chief be empowered to raise three companies of woodmen, to be composed of Indians, free persons of colour, or trusty free negroes, of the best description, under white officers, for the defence and security of the interior parts of the island; such companies to be paid, subsisted, and clothed, at the public expence, in the same manner as his majesty's regular troops quartered in this island, and to be embodied for a limited time; and that each person enlisting in the said companies, shall be paid the sum of twenty guineas, as and for bounty-money, at the time of enlistment:

For raising three companies of woodmen.

A motion being made, that the house do agree to the report;

The house divided:

The noes went forth:

Ayes, 17:—Mr. Irving, Mr. Henckell, Mr. Quier, Mr. Macleod, Mr. Shirley, Mr. Ross, Mr. Turner, Mr. Dawson, Mr. Chief-Justice, Mr. Cockburn, Mr. Bryan, Mr. Lyon, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Fitch, Mr. Cuthbert, Mr. Jaques, and Mr. Grant: Division.

Noes, 9:—Mr. Telfer, Mr. Reid, Mr. Deans, Mr. Henry, Mr. Shaw, Mr. Mowat, Mr. Anderson, Mr. Swaby, and Mr. Christie:

So it was resolved in the affirmative.

The other resolutions being again severally read, were agreed unto by the house, and are as follows:

2. *Resolved,*

That it is the opinion of this committee, that the commissioners of the board of works be empowered to cause block-houses, offices, and apartments for the officers, to be erected and built, in any of the interior parts of this island, for the use and accommodation of the said three companies of woodmen, that the commander in chief may appoint.

For erecting block-houses, &c.

3. *Resolved,*

That it is the opinion of this committee, that the commissioners appointed by law, for stating and settling the public accounts, be authorized to audit all accounts, charges, and demands, which have accrued, in consequence of the measures that have been judged necessary to be adopted for reducing the runaway slaves, who have associated themselves for rebellious purposes; and to grant public certificates, bearing legal interest, in payment; and that such certificates shall be taken in payment of all public duties and taxes, the revenue duties excepted.

For defraying expences incurred.

4. *Resolved,*

That it is the opinion of this committee, that in future no rations shall be allowed to the army and the militia, but to such as shall be in actual service against the enemy.

Rations.

5. *Resolved,*

That it is the opinion of this committee, that no allowance for grass, provisions, corn, or charges of lodging-money for quarters, shall be made to such estates or properties as have been occupied as posts, by detachments of the army or the militia, employed in reducing the runaway slaves, or other slaves in rebellion.

Extra expences.

6. *Resolved,*

That it is the opinion of this committee, that whenever troops shall be applied for, for the protection or defence of any particular estate or property, all charges and expences to be incurred thereby, shall be borne and defrayed by such estate or property.

Guards.

7. *Resolved,*

Accompong ma-
roons.

7. *Resolved,*

That it is the opinion of this committee, that the commander in chief be empowered to employ the maroon negroes of Accompong-Town, in reducing the slaves in rebellion.

Bills,

8. That it be recommended to the house, to appoint a committee or committees, to prepare and bring in a bill or bills for carrying into effect the above resolutions of the committee.

Then Mr. Irving acquainted the house, that the committee had directed him to move the house for leave to sit again:

Resolved,

That this house will, to-morrow, resolve itself into a committee of the whole house, to enquire into and take further into consideration the state of the island.

Ordered,

Proceedings to be
published.

That the resolutions this day reported from the committee of the whole house, to enquire into and take into consideration the state of the island, and the proceedings of the house thereon, be published in the Royal Gazette, the St. Jago Gazette, and the Cornwall Chronicle, for one month.

Resolved,

Copy to be sent to
lieutenant-governor.

That a message be sent to his honour the lieutenant-governor, with copies of the resolutions of the house, on the report this day made from the committee of the whole house, to enquire into and take into consideration the state of the island.

A message from his honour the lieutenant-governor, by his secretary, as follows:

“MR. SPEAKER,

Message from lieutenant-governor,
with list of naturalization patents.

“I am commanded by his honour the lieutenant-governor to lay before the house, a list of naturalization patents recorded in the secretary's office, from the year 1790:

“His honour has reason to believe that, of the forty-three names which appear on that list, sixteen are French.”

Ordered,

That the above message, and the list therewith sent, do lie on the table, to be perused by the members.

Then the house adjourned till to-morrow morning, nine of the clock,

By virtue of an order of the house, I do appoint Alexander Aikman to print these Notes, and that no other person do presume to print the same,
KEAN OSBORN, Speaker, pro tempore.

Martis,

Martis, 19° die Junii, 1798.

ORDERED,

That the following message be sent to his honour the lieutenant-governor:

“ MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOUR,

“ *We are ordered by the house to wait on your honour, and to lay before you, copies of several resolutions of the house, of yesterday.*

Message to lieutenant-governor, with yesterday's resolutions.

Ordered,

That Mr. Cuthbert, Mr. Grant, Mr. Fitch, Mr. Quier, Mr. Hering, Mr. Bryan, and Mr. Henckell, be a committee to wait on his honour with the above message; who returning, reported the delivery thereof.

Ordered,

That Mr. Shirley, Mr. Cuthbert, Mr. Grant, Mr. Fitch, and Mr. Quier, be a committee to prepare and bring in a bill for raising three companies of woodmen, to be employed internally, for the defence of this island; and for other purposes, agreeably to resolutions of the house, of yesterday.

Committee appointed to bring in a bill for raising woodmen.

Ordered,

That Mr. Shirley, Mr. Irving, and Mr. Swaby, be a committee to prepare and bring in a bill for authorizing his honour the lieutenant-governor, or the commander in chief for the time being, to employ the maroon negroes of Accompong-Town, for the internal defence and security of this island, agreeably to a resolution of the house, of yesterday.

Committee appointed to bring in a bill for employing Accompong maroons.

The house, according to order, resolved itself into a committee of the whole house, upon the bill for vesting certain powers in the magistrates of the several parishes of this island, respecting foreign slaves; and for other purposes:

Foreign slave bill committed;

Mr. Speaker, *pro tempore*, left the chair.

Mr. Shirley took the chair of the committee.

Mr. Speaker, *pro tempore*, resumed the chair.

Mr. Shirley, from the committee, reported, that they had gone through the bill, and had made several amendments thereto, which he read in his place, and delivered in at the table, with the bill; where being again severally read, were agreed unto by the house:

Reported;

Ordered,

That the said bill, with the amendments, be engrossed, and that the title be, “ *An act for vesting certain powers in the magistrates of the several parishes of this island, respecting foreign slaves; and for other purposes.*”

Engrossed.

The house, according to order, resolved itself into a committee of the whole house, upon the bill for establishing regulations respecting persons of a certain description arriving in this island, or resident therein, in certain cases:

Alien bill committed;

Mr. Speaker, *pro tempore*, left the chair.

Mr. Quier took the chair of the committee.

Mr. Speaker, *pro tempore*, resumed the chair.

H

Mr.

Reported;

Mr. Quier, from the committee, reported, that they had gone through the bill, and had made several amendments thereto, which he read in his place, and delivered in at the table, with the bill; where being again severally read, were agreed unto by the house:

Engrossed.

Ordered,
That the said bill, with the amendments, be engrossed, and that the title be,
“ *An act for establishing regulations respecting persons of a certain description arriving in this island, or resident therein, in certain cases.*”

Motion for a parochial party bill.

A motion being made, that a committee be appointed, to prepare and bring in a bill to empower the respective parishes of this island to raise and pay parties, for the suppression of runaway or rebellious slaves:

Committee appointed.

Ordered,
That Mr. Grant, Mr. Swaby, and Mr. Fitch, be a committee for that purpose.

Then the house adjourned till to-morrow morning, nine of the clock.

By virtue of an order of the house, I do appoint Alexander Aikman to print these Notes, and that no other person do presume to print the same,
KEAN OSBORN, *Speaker, pro tempore.*

Mercurii, 20^o die Junii, 1798.

Alien bill passed.

THE engrossed bill for *establishing regulations respecting persons of a certain description arriving in this island, or resident therein, in certain cases*, was read the third time:

Resolved,
That the said bill do pass.

Foreign slave bill passed.

The engrossed bill for *vesting certain powers in the magistrates of the several parishes of this island, respecting foreign slaves; and for other purposes*, was read the third time:

Resolved,
That the said bill do pass.

Woodmen bill presented.

Mr. Shirley, according to order, presented to the house, a bill for raising three companies of woodmen to be employed internally, for the defence of this island; and for other purposes; which was received, and read the first time:

Ordered,
That the said bill be read a second time, to-morrow.

Bill for employing Accompong maroons presented.

Mr. Shirley, according to order, presented to the house, a bill for authorizing his honour the lieutenant-governor, or the governor or commander in chief for the time being, to employ the maroon negroes of Accompong-Town for the internal defence and security of this island; which was received, and read the first time:

Ordered,
That the said bill be read a second time, this day.

Mr.

1798.

Merturii, 20^o Junii.

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Mr. Grant, according to order, presented to the house, a bill to empower the respective parishes of this island to raise and pay parties, for the suppression of runaway or rebellious slaves; which was received, and read the first time: Parochial party bill presented.

Ordered,

That the said bill be read a second time, this day.

The house adjourned for one quarter of an hour:

And being met;

The bill for authorizing his honour the lieutenant-governor, or the governor or commander in chief for the time being, to employ the maroon negroes of Accompong-Town for the internal defence and security of this island, was read a second time: Accompong maroon bill read second time.

Ordered,

That the said bill be engrossed.

Adjournment.

Accompong maroon bill read second time.

Engrossed.

The bill to empower the respective parishes of this island to raise and pay parties, for the suppression of runaway or rebellious slaves, was read a second time: Parochial party bill read second time.

Resolved,

That the said bill be committed to a committee of the whole house, to-morrow.

The house, according to order, resolved itself into a committee of the whole house, upon the bill for enforcing the instructions given to all captains or commanding officers, of ships and vessels having letters of marque and reprisals against the enemy: Letters of marque instructions bill committed;

Mr. Speaker, *pro tempore*, left the chair.

Mr. Shirley took the chair of the committee.

Mr. Speaker, *pro tempore*, resumed the chair.

Mr. Shirley, from the committee, reported, that they had gone through the bill, and had made several amendments thereto, which he read in his place, and delivered in at the table, with the bill; where being again severally read, were agreed unto by the house: Reported;

Ordered,

That the said bill, with the amendments, be engrossed, and that the title be, "An act for enforcing the instructions given to all captains or commanding officers, of ships and vessels having letters of marque and reprisals against the enemy; and for other purposes." Engrossed.

A message from his honour the lieutenant-governor, by his secretary as follows:

"MR. SPEAKER,

"I am commanded by his honour the lieutenant-governor to lay before the house, three letters which he has received from his grace the duke of Portland, of the following dates: 8th of February, 10th of March, and 5th of April, with their respective inclosures. Message from lieutenant-governor, with dispatches from secretary of state, respecting maroons.

"His honour conceives, that the subject-matter of these letters applies so closely to what concerns the good faith, the justice, and the dignity, of the legislature of Jamaica:

"That,

“ That, also considering the extreme pressure of the case, he feels himself in duty bound, to request that the house may be pleased to give, during the present sessions, an early attention to this most important and interesting business.

No. 1.

Whitchall, 8th February, 1798.

[Duplicate.]

MY LORD,

Letter from duke of
Portland.

I herewith transmit to your lordship, an extract of a letter which I have received from sir John Wentworth, relative to the maroons which were sent from Jamaica to Nova-Scotia.

To that part of it which relates to the expences incurred on their account, I must desire your most immediate and serious attention, in order that measures may be taken by the island for discharging those expences, and any that may be incurred in future, on account of the maroons, conformably to the terms upon which his majesty's sanction, to the measures of permitting them to continue in Nova-Scotia, was originally given.

As the assembly of Jamaica must see, equally with your lordship, the impossibility of burthening the establishment of Nova Scotia with the expences in question, I feel it unnecessary for me to say a word more on the subject, except that it occurs to me, that the best way of providing for the maroons would be, to procure an estimate, from year to year, of the expences requisite for their subsistence, and to give a credit to the extent of such estimate, in favour of sir John Wentworth, or such other person as the island shall think proper to employ, as their agent for subsisting the maroons.

This estimate must of course decrease every year; and I should hope, in a very short time, would be reduced to little more than a few contingent charges.

I have the honour to be, MY LORD, your lordship's most obedient humble servant,

The earl of Balcarres.

PORTLAND.

Extract of a letter from sir John Wentworth, baronet, to his grace the duke of Portland, dated Halifax, 4th November, 1797.

Extract of a letter
from sir John Went-
worth.

The maroons improve in their conduct; and, I trust, will gradually forget the impressions made on their inexperienced and violent minds, by interested and ill-disposed persons; they are healthy, and increase, as appears by the physician's report, herewith inclosed; nor have they a single complaint to offer; those that were taught to them heretofore, now diminish, and the mild pleasant weather of this autumn satisfies them that they can be comfortable. It is much to be regretted, that the island of Jamaica has not taken effectual measures for payment of the bills drawn by Mr. Quarrell, for their support. The bill-holders decline consenting to his return to Jamaica, and the refusal of his drafts has so effectually suspended his credit, that he could not obtain any money or supplies for them; neither would any person take his bills, on any terms. I have therefore been unavoidably necessitated to conduct this service, and draw bills on messieurs Milligan and Mitchell, on account of the island of Jamaica, referring them, in case of difficulty, to the lords commissioners of his majesty's treasury. By this mode, the island will pay, in the first instance, and according to their engagements, or be ultimately responsible for it. Mr. Quarrell feels himself much injured by the dishonour to his bills, and still more so in the consequent detention from his affairs in Jamaica.

[Copy].

1798.

Mercurii, 20^o Junii.

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[Copy].—*A return of sick, and number of maroons, from the 1st October, to the 1st of November, 1797.* Medical report.

John Linton, consumptive and sick before he came to Nova-Scotia.

Bessy Sewell, scrophulous swellings in the neck, and consumptive.

Total in hospital, 2.

Increase in births, since last return, 3.

Total number of maroons, 550.

(Signed)

JOHN OXLEY, surgeon.

No. 2.

[Duplicate.]

Whitehall, 10th March, 1798.

MY LORD,

As your lordship will find, in the letter I had the honour of writing to you on the 8th ultimo, that I have very fully given you my opinion, respecting the expence of establishing and maintaining the maroons in Nova-Scotia, a duplicate of which goes by this conveyance, I must desire to refer you to that dispatch; and I shall add to it, the copy of a letter I have received from Mr. Sewell, agent for Jamaica, on the same subject, and of my answer to it (11th March); in which I have so fully entered into the merits of the question, that it is only necessary for me to assure you, that I entertain the most confident and sanguine expectations, that on a revision of the transaction in question, the good faith, the justice, and the liberality of the legislature of Jamaica, will not allow any other construction to be put upon the intentions they professed in sending the maroons to Nova-Scotia, than that which I have felt myself obliged to give it, and which I think the whole tenour of the proceedings renders incontrovertible. I have the honour to be, MY LORD, your lordship's most obedient humble servant,

Earl of Balcarres, &c. &c. &c.

PORTLAND.

Letter from duke of Portland.

[Copy.]

Great George-street, 19th February, 1798.

MY LORD DUKE,

Having received some accounts of the actual state and management of the maroons in Nova-Scotia, from whence I am apprehensive that expectations may be entertained by lieutenant-governor sir John Wentworth, with regard to their provision and establishment, irreconcilable with the resolutions of the assembly of Jamaica; and being desirous to prevent, as much as possible, any misunderstanding hereafter, with respect to the responsibility of my constituents in that behalf, I beg leave to lay before your grace, an extract of a report of a committee of the house of assembly of Jamaica, made the 7th of December, 1796, and agreed to the 19th of the same month; whereby it appears, that the assembly have resolved, that the further support of the maroons in Nova-Scotia, at the expence of Jamaica, should be limited to the 22d of July, 1798; that until the 22d of July, 1797, they should be comfortably subsisted (without limiting the expence); but that, from thenceforth, until the 22d of July, 1798, the allowance for each maroon should not exceed the sum of ten pounds sterling: And it may be proper to inform your grace, that the expences incurred, on account of those maroons, since the 22d of July last (when Mr. Quarrell, the commissary appointed by lord Balcarres, surrendered the charge of them to the immediate direction of sir John Wentworth,) are represented to have already more than doubled the full amount of the allowance, so agreed to be made for them by the public of Jamaica.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed)

His grace the duke of Portland, &c. &c. &c.

ROBERT SEWELL,

Agent for Jamaica.

Extract

Letter from Mr. Sewell to duke of Portland.

Extract from a report to the house, December, 1796.

Extract of a report of a committee of the house of assembly of Jamaica, dated 7^h December, 1796.

‘ By a letter of the 12th August from Mr. Ochterlony, the deputy commissary, it appears that advices had been received from his grace the duke of Portland, signifying his majesty’s wish that every thing should be done for the comfort of the maroons; which, by the advice and assistance of lieutenant-governor Wentworth, was effected in the purchase of an estate near the town of Halifax, on which there were comfortable buildings, well suited to lodge them during the winter: And it further appears, from sir John Wentworth’s letter of the 10th October, that these people were pleased, and desirous to settle in that country; that a license of occupation had been granted by the lieutenant-governor, for sixteen or seventeen thousand acres of land, adjoining the estate so purchased, and that application for a grant of the same would be made to his majesty, for the express purpose of settling the maroons in a proper manner, in the colony of Nova-Scotia; and with this view Mr. Quarrell, by the particular recommendation of sir John Wentworth, ordered from London various articles to a very considerable amount, for their support and accommodation, as appears by letters from them, dated 13th August, and 17th September: In effecting the several purposes before-mentioned, the credit given to Mr. Quarrell, by the receiver-general, for 10,000*l.* sterling, in part of the grant of 25,000*l.* currency to the commissioners of public accounts, was exhausted; it therefore became necessary for him to apply for a further credit of 5000*l.* sterling, to enable him to victual and support the maroons during the winter season; which sum, your committee are of opinion, should be immediately afforded him: It further appears, that an additional grant of money from the house will be requisite, in order to carry into full effect the seventh resolution of the joint committee of conference, as reported to the house on the 20th April, stating, “ that the maroons should be maintained at the public expence of the island, for a reasonable time after their arrival at the place of their destination.” But your committee beg leave to submit, that a period should be fixed and declared, after the expiration of which, this country should be no longer bound to support these people in their settlement in Nova-Scotia: That the maroons having been sent off this island by the legislature, in consequence of their atrocious and rebellious conduct, the humanity of this country will be fully manifested by the measures taken for their present subsistence and comfort, and for their further support, until it may be reasonably expected they should maintain themselves, by their labour and industry in cultivating the lands provided for them, or by other employment in which they may gain a livelihood: Your committee are therefore of opinion, that such further support should be limited to the 22d July, 1798: That the maroons should be comfortably subsisted by this country to the 22d July next; and that, for the year then next ensuing, the sum to be allowed for the support of each man, woman, and child, should not exceed 10*l.* sterling: Your committee being fully convinced, from the tenour of sir John Wentworth’s letter to Mr. Quarrell and Mr. Ochterlony, of the 13th August, that these people, possessing lands and provided with implements of husbandry and seeds for planting, and enjoying, moreover, the advantages of fishing, and fowling, may then supply their own wants with the greatest facility:

‘ That the lands and buildings, purchased in Nova-Scotia by Mr. Quarrell, should be vested entirely in his majesty, his heirs and successors, for the use and benefit of the maroons, in such manner as he, in his wisdom and goodness, may please to direct.

“It is, therefore, the opinion of your committee, that Mr. Quarrell be directed to communicate the intention of this country, in this respect, to Sir John Wentworth, or his majesty’s governor of Nova-Scotia for the time being, and that he should execute a conveyance to the crown, of the property purchased as aforesaid.”

[Copy.]

Whitchall, 11th March, 1798.

SIR,

“I have very attentively considered the letter you wrote me on the 19th February, in which you sent me an extract of a report of a committee of the house of assembly of Jamaica, of the 7th December, 1796, respecting the subsistence and establishment of the maroons sent from Jamaica to Nova-Scotia. The purport of that report is, to submit to the assembly of Jamaica, the propriety of fixing and declaring a period, beyond which that island should be no longer bound to support those people in their present settlement, and further that *that* period should be the 22d July, 1798.

Letter from duke of
Portland to Mr.
Sewell.

“In order to judge of the reasonableness of that proposition, it will be necessary to recur to the circumstances under which the maroons were originally sent to Halifax; and to observe, in the first place, that, on the part of the legislature of Jamaica, no communication of the measure of sending them out of the island was or could be made to the king’s confidential servants, so as to obtain his majesty’s sanction to it, prior to its being carried into effect: When this measure was first proposed, it appears from the resolution of the joint committee of conference of the two houses of the legislature of Jamaica, of the 20th April, 1796, that the maroons were to be maintained at the public expence of the island, for a reasonable time after their arrival at the place of their destination: Combining, therefore, this resolution, and the circumstances under which the removal of the maroons took place, and considering them together, it is impossible to infer that it could have been in the contemplation of his majesty, when he permitted his royal acquiescence in this measure to be signified, that his island of Jamaica could intend otherwise, than to take upon themselves the whole expence of the establishment and maintenance of the maroons, in that part of his majesty’s dominions to which it had sent them, until those people should be enabled to maintain themselves: Besides the nature of the thing speaks for itself, and is as little consistent with the wisdom, as with the liberality and justice, of the legislature of Jamaica, to suppose that they could intend to prescribe a definite limit, to that which could not but of necessity depend upon events which human foresight could not provide for, as it would be to suffer a thought of the possibility of their intending to relieve themselves from the burthen they had undertaken, by laying it upon the people of Nova-Scotia. No person, who knows any thing of the manner in which the maroons were brought there, could bear the idea of subjecting that province to any burthen upon their account; and, different as the circumstances of this country are from that, I am sure it will not be insisted upon, that any expectation could be reasonably entertained, that we should take upon ourselves the expence of maintaining those people, concerning whose removal we had never the opportunity of even giving an opinion. Desirous that this question should stand upon its own plain and simple ground, you observe that I have not availed myself hitherto of the advantages which I might have derived, from the official correspondence which has passed upon this subject; a reference to which will put the matter, as far as his majesty’s government is concerned, beyond the possibility of doubt. His majesty’s directions to his lieutenant-governor of Nova-Scotia have been uniformly such, as to manifest his gracious intention,

tention, that every assistance should be given to the island of Jamaica, in establishing and maintaining the maroons; but, in respect to the expences and charges to be incurred on their account, it has been explicitly and repeatedly stated to sir John Wentworth, that they are to be defrayed by such superintendant or commissary as that island should appoint for that purpose; and the notifications which have been made to the earl of Balcarres on this point, will clearly and distinctly shew, that the question has been uniformly seen by his majesty's government, in the light I have described. On this occasion, I choose to recur to the general tenour of the correspondence which has taken place on this subject; because I observe, in the conclusion of your letter now before me, that it is stated, that since July last, Mr. Quarrell has surrendered the charge of the maroons to the immediate direction of sir John Wentworth: As far as that circumstance may be supposed to affect the present question, it will be sufficient to remark (if it is thereby meant to imply, that the expence of maintaining the maroons has devolved on the lieutenant-governor of Nova-Scotia, and through him, on the establishment of that province), that the whole of the correspondence I have referred to, as well as the nature of the case itself, are inconsistent with any such or any other presumption; that directions have been given to sir John Wentworth, to assume to himself the superintendance and management of the maroons, or of the funds appropriated by the island of Jamaica to those purposes, to the exclusion of such superintendant or commissary as the island, or those authorized by the island, may think fit to employ on that service.

' I have entered thus fully into the question, and have traced the progress of this transaction from its source, in full confidence, that it only requires to be fully and fairly represented to the legislature of Jamaica, to induce them to make such provision as shall be necessary for the maroons, until they can maintain themselves in such manner, and under the conduct of such persons, as that legislature shall think proper to appoint for that purpose. The directions which have been uniformly given to sir John Wentworth have been, to give every aid and assistance in his power, and to take every possible care, that such provision should be made as economically as possible, with a view to teach as well as to enable the maroons to support themselves as expeditiously as possible; and, if it shall appear that he has either failed or neglected to fulfil the instructions he has received in this respect, upon a proper representation of it I shall lose no time in enforcing his majesty's commands. But I trust and believe, from the knowledge I have of him, that his conduct will have rendered any such measure as unnecessary, as I am persuaded it must be to say a word more to convince you or the legislature of Jamaica, that those directions could not contain any intimation or expectation on the part of his majesty, that his colony of Nova-Scotia should contribute, in any degree whatever, to the expence of the maintenance, any more than to the establishment of the maroons.

' I have, &c.

* *Robert Sewell, Esquire.*

PORTLAND.'

No. 3.

' MY LORD,

Whitehall, 5th April, 1798.

Letter from duke of
Portland.

' Referring you to my letter of 10th ultimo, I herewith transmit, for your lordship's further information and guidance, in regard to the question of settling and subsisting the maroons, the within copy of a second letter to me from Mr. Sewell, and of my answer to him, on the same subject.

' I have the honour to be, MY LORD, your lordship's most obedient humble servant,

* *Earl of Balcarres,*

PORTLAND.'

[Copy.]

1798.

Mercurii, 20^o Junii.

31

[Copy.]

Great George-street, 27th March, 1768.

MY LORD DUKE,

Conceiving, from the letter which your grace was pleased to honour me with on the 11th instant, in answer to mine of the 19th of February, that your grace considers the report, of which I took the liberty to transmit to you an extract, as remaining still open, I beg leave again to acquaint your grace (as in my former letter) that that report was confirmed by a resolution of the house of assembly of Jamaica, on the 14th of December, 1796. I am aware indeed, that, in consequence of subsequent instructions transmitted by your grace to lieutenant-governor earl of Balcarres, and his lordship's message thereupon to the house of assembly in August last, that body resolved to take, at their then next session, the subject of that report again into consideration: But the interruptions which have lately occurred, to retard the advices expected from Jamaica, leaving me totally uninformed of their proceedings, I am not at liberty to understand that any change of sentiment, in that respect, has taken place in that assembly.

Letter from Mr. Sewell to the duke of Portland.

Taking the resolution of the 14th December, 1796, as the rule by which the assembly of Jamaica is guided, your grace will permit me to make a very few remarks upon your grace's letter of the 11th instant: It is no doubt, my lord, impossible to describe definite limits to unascertained demands; but the assembly of Jamaica, when they restricted their supply on the maroon account, not only thought that a maroon in Nova-Scotia, already provided with land, house, tools, and implements of husbandry, might be maintained at an expence greater than would suffice to maintain a peasant in any country; but they felt themselves warranted, by the representations of sir John Wentworth, in his letters of the 13th August, 1796, to earl Balcarres, and to Mr. Quarrell, to conclude, that the provision they made would be more than adequate to the real necessities of the maroons, if properly administered.

The assembly of Jamaica do not, I conceive, my lord, look to the government of Nova-Scotia for any exoneration: But, without presuming to define what specific expectation my constituents may entertain from *this* country, and not wishing to be understood to state, that the precise destination of the maroons *for Halifax*, was the result of previous orders from your grace; I request leave to submit to your grace, that from a perusal of your grace's letter to earl Balcarres, of the 8th of January, 1796, their removal *from Jamaica* appears to be perfectly consistent with the opinion which your grace had previously expressed, and which I presume to think, must have considerably influenced that measure: And, as it was expedient to select for their destination, in the first instance, some station (necessarily British) which, while it offered no tedious or uncertain passage, would, nevertheless, place the maroons at a reasonable distance from Jamaica; his majesty's colony of Nova-Scotia very naturally occurred as well calculated for their immediate reception: That province, however, was by no means fixed upon by the government of Jamaica, nor could it, as the *final* station of the maroons, but merely as one taken provisionally only; where their commissary was directed to await the communication of his majesty's pleasure, which alone could determine their ultimate disposal; and I trust it will be in your grace's recollection, that I did myself the honour of transmitting to your grace, on the 21st of September, extracts of letters which I had received from Mr. Commissary Quarrell, recommending another part of North-America, as being in his judgment the most suitable for their settlement.

Although, should the responsibility of my constituents cease in July next, and in the mean time be limited in point of amount, according to their resolution of December, 1796, I should be the less called upon to notice, on *their account*, any

K

inattention

inattention in the actual management of the maroons; yet, with a view to the more general claim of humanity and justice towards those people, as well as through a due and respectful consideration for the credit and honour of his majesty's government, I deem it at all events proper to intimate to your grace, my serious apprehensions lest your grace's good intentions, already so anxiously manifested for the speedy and effectual settlement of the maroons, may be much disappointed; since, by the latest accounts I have received from Halifax (and which I deem worthy of great credit) I am informed, that, notwithstanding the more favourable statements which are transmitted from thence, the settlement of the maroons in the neighbourhood of Halifax is, in almost every respect, extremely retarded by a general inactivity and inattention, which mark the chief departments of the maroon establishment.

"If your grace should be desirous to be informed of such particulars as have reached me in this respect, I shall be ready to make a personal communication thereof to your grace, whenever your grace shall be pleased to honour me with your commands.

"I am, &c.

(Signed)

"ROBERT SEWELL, agent for Jamaica.

"His grace the duke of Portland, &c. &c. &c."

[Copy.]

"Whitehall, 30th March, 1798.

"SIR,

Duke of Portland, in
reply to the above.

"I have received your letter of yesterday's date, in answer to mine of the 11th instant, on the subject of maintaining the maroons sent from Jamaica to Nova-Scotia: As I think it material, that no doubt should remain on your mind, respecting the grounds upon which that question stands, I have recurred to my letter to lord Balcarras, of the 8th of January, 1796, to which you refer, and in which I stated to him, "that the island of Jamaica, in any terms which may be granted to the maroons, should be secured against the possibility of a similar insurrection; which would, I conceived, be best effected, first, by not restoring to them their district; and secondly, by placing them in such a situation within the island (if it could not be done out of it, which would be preferable) as would, from its nature, incapacitate them from contriving further mischief."

"I will venture to affirm that the passage, which I have quoted at length, will not be found to contain any thing upon which a presumption can be raised, that either Nova-Scotia, or any specific part of his majesty's dominions, was intended to be pointed out or hinted at, as a proper situation for the maroons to be placed in, exclusively of every other country, or that could be supposed to authorize the sending them to any country belonging to his majesty, without previous communication with his majesty's confidential servants, or that could suggest the most distant idea of the possibility, of this country's ever submitting to be charged with the expence of their maintenance: As to that part of the question, which refers merely to the situation of the place to which the maroons were to be removed, it is evident, from the manner in which the Charaibs have been disposed of, that it was not of necessity, that it should be a part of his majesty's dominions.

"In my apprehension, therefore, it must be admitted, that the maroons were sent to Halifax by the legislature of the island of Jamaica, not only without any sanction on the part of his majesty's government, but even without any option having been left to his majesty, respecting the place of their destination; and as evidently also without a necessity, as without any authority, for their settlement on a territory

a territory belonging to his majesty; I agree with you, that, to whatever place they might be sent, their destination neither was nor could be considered to be final, and was necessarily subject to his majesty's pleasure; but I do not see how the case is altered by that admission, because, supposing for instance, that it had been judged inexpedient that the maroons should have remained in Nova-Scotia, or in any other part of his majesty's dominions, to which they might have been sent with equal propriety, it will not be argued that the island of Jamaica would have become exonerated by such a removal, from the charge and expence of disposing of them in some other manner, and that such charge and expence would be thereby transferred to his majesty's government; because, if that is the case, the direct and necessary consequence of sending the maroons to any part of the king's dominions, without his consent, is to charge his majesty's government with the expence of their removal, and of their future establishment, if it should be judged inexpedient to suffer them to remain there; I desire you to observe, that I state the question thus broadly, because it cannot be affected by the part of his majesty's dominions to which the maroons should be sent, but must necessarily, as I conceive, be determined in the way which I contend for. With respect to what you state relative to Mr. Quarrell's opinion, that some other part of the king's North-American dominions would be more proper for the establishment of the maroons than Nova-Scotia, I must say, that I consider their present situation, on many accounts, to be less objectionable than any other which could be found for them, within his majesty's North-American provinces.

"I am much obliged to you for apprizing me, that there is reason to think that the settlement of the maroons has not been attended to in the manner which it ought; and I must desire to have some conversation with you on that subject, at your earliest leisure; so far as depends on sir John Wentworth, in his capacity of lieutenant-governor of the province, I shall feel it to be my duty to give him such positive instructions, as, upon further communication with you, may be found necessary for enforcing the orders which have already been sent to him, for the purpose of his giving every aid and assistance in his power, towards settling the maroons, and enabling them to support themselves as speedily as possible; but it is only in his capacity of lieutenant-governor, and for the purposes last-mentioned that he can be authorized or permitted to act. I am, &c.

Robert Sewell, esquire, &c. &c. &c.

"PORTLAND."

Ordered,

That the above message, and the papers therewith sent, be referred to the committee of the whole house, to enquire into and take further into consideration the state of the island.

Referred to committee on state of the island.

Ordered,

That Mr. Swaby have leave of absence for the remainder of the session, after to-morrow.

Leave of absence to Mr. Swaby.

Then the house adjourned till to-morrow morning, nine of the clock.

In virtue of an order of the house, I do appoint Alexander Ashman to print these Notes, and that no other person do presume to print the same.

KEAN OSBORN, *Speaker, pro tempore.*

Paris,

Jovis, 21^o die Junii, 1798.

Letters of marque
Instructions bill
passed.

THE engrossed bill for enforcing the instructions given to all captains or commanding officers, of ships and vessels having letters of marque and reprisals against the enemy; and for other purposes, was read the third time:

Resolved,

That the said bill do pass.

Accompong-ma-
toon bill passed.

The engrossed bill for authorizing his honour the lieutenant-governor, or the governor or commander in chief for the time being, to employ the maroon negroes of Accompong-Town, for the internal defence and security of this island, was read the third time:

Resolved,

That the said bill do pass:

Ordered,

That Mr. Henry and Mr. Telfer be a committee to carry the above engrossed bills, and also the engrossed bills of yesterday, to the council, and desire their concurrence thereto; who returning, reported the delivery thereof.

Woodmen bill read
second time.

The bill for raising three companies of woodmen to be employed internally, for the defence of this island; and for other purposes, was read a second time:

Resolved,

That the said bill be committed to a committee of the whole house, to-morrow.

Ordered,

Clerk of commis-
sioners of loan or-
dered to attend,
with their minute
book.

That the clerk to the commissioners appointed by law, for raising several sums of money for the public service, do forthwith lay before the house, the minute book of the proceedings of the said commissioners.

Adjournment.

The house adjourned for one quarter of an hour:

And being met;

Report from com-
missioners of ac-
counts.

Mr. Cockburn, from the commissioners appointed by law, for stating and settling the public accounts, reported,

That in the last session they reported to the house, that the receiver-general having charged a commission of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on issuing public certificates, bearing interest at 10 per cent. the board ordered, on the 10th of June preceding, that the amount, being 6125^s. should be applied to the use of the public, it being their opinion, that such charge is unauthorized by law, and ought not to be allowed:

That, on the 30th day of September last, the late receiver-general made an entry in his cash-book, to the following purport: "To James Mitchell, receiver-general, received the amount of commission charged him in June last, in obedience to a resolution of the board of commissioners of public accounts, of the 10th of that month; the receiver-general still reserving to himself the right of hereafter claiming the said sum as a compensation, at and after the rate of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for his trouble and responsibility in raising the sum of 245,000^l. upon the public certificates bearing an interest of 10 per cent. per annum. - - - - - £. 6125."

That the said reservation was entered without the knowledge or consent of the commissioners:

That, on the 25th day of May last, the said late receiver-general made another entry in his cash-book, to the following purport: "By commission account, for amount

amount of the receiver-general's commission, at $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for his trouble, risk, and responsibility, in raising the sum of 375,000*l.* upon public certificates bearing interest at 10 per cent. per annum, deducting therefrom the commission on 20,000*l.* of the said certificates, delivered to messieurs Atkinson, Mure, and Bogle, on account of the subsistence of his majesty's troops - - - 8875*l.*

That the commissioners cannot help expressing their surprise at this extraordinary conduct of the late receiver-general, in retaining a compensation for his trouble, risk, and responsibility, after the principle of the said charge had been declared, in the opinion of the said commissioners, to be unauthorized by law:

That the commissioners submit to the house, that the only mode of the late receiver-general being compensated for his services, is by petition to the house:

That the commissioners therefore submit to the house, the propriety of ordering the solicitor for the crown, to proceed at law against the late receiver-general, and his sureties, in the mode he may be advised.

The house being informed, that the clerk to the commissioners appointed by law, for raising several sums of money for the public service, attended at the door; he was called in, and at the bar presented to the house, according to order, the minute book of the proceedings of the said commissioners:

And then he withdrew:

Ordered,

That the above report, and the minute book of the said commissioners, be referred to the committee of the whole house, to enquire into and take further into consideration the state of the island:

Referred to

Then the house resolved itself into such committee:

Mr. Speaker, *pro tempore*, left the chair.

Mr. Irving took the chair of the committee.

Mr. Speaker, *pro tempore*, resumed the chair.

committee on state
of the island.

Mr. Irving, from the committee, reported two resolutions, which he read in his place, and delivered in at the table; where the first resolution being again read, is as follows:

Report.

That it be recommended to the house, to agree to the report this day made to the house, from the commissioners appointed by law, for stating and settling the public accounts:

A motion being made, that the house do agree to the report;

A debate thereon arising; and the question being put, it was resolved in the affirmative.

The second resolution being again read, was agreed unto by the house, *nem. con.* and is as follows:

That it be recommended to the house, to send a message to his honour the lieutenant-governor to inform him, in answer to his message of yesterday, that they have taken the subject-matter of the said message, with its inclosures, into immediate consideration; that they highly approve the reasons alledged by the agent for this island, in his correspondence with his grace the duke of Portland, relating to the maroons in Nova-Scotia; and that they unanimously adhere to their resolutions of the 14th December, 1796, and of the 21st December, 1797, on that subject.

A motion being made, that the house do come to the following resolution:

That the receiver-general do, out of any monies in his hands unappropriated, pay to James Lewis, esquire, clerk to the house, the sum of 400*l.* for his extraordinary trouble, attendance, and expences, during the present session; and that this or any future assembly will make good the same:

Remuneration to
clerk to the house.

L

Ordered,

- Three days rule. *Ordered,*
That the same do lie three days on the table, agreeably to the rule of the house.
A motion being made, that the house do come to the following resolution:
That the receiver general do, out of any monies in his hands unappropriated,
pay to Benjamin Lyon, esquire, sergeant at arms attending this house, the sum of 200*l.*
for his extraordinary trouble and attendance during the present session; and that
this or any future assembly will make good the same:
- To the sergeant at arms. *Ordered,*
That the same do lie three days on the table, agreeably to the rule of the house.
A motion being made, that the house do come to the following resolution:
That the receiver-general do, out of any monies in his hands unappropriated,
pay to Mr. Thomas Wills, the sum of 4*l.* for his extraordinary trouble and attendance during the present session; and that this or any future assembly will make good the same:
- To T. Wills. *Ordered,*
That the same do lie three days on the table, agreeably to the rule of the house.
- Three days rule.

Then the house adjourned till to-morrow morning, nine of the clock.

By virtue of an order of the house, I do appoint Alexander Aikman to print these Notes, and that no other person do presume to print the same.
KEAN OSBORN, *Speaker, pro tempore.*

Veneris, 22^o die Junii, 1798.

ORDERED,

That the following message be sent to his honour the lieutenant-governor:

"MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOUR,

Message to lieutenant-governor, adhering to former resolutions respecting maroons.

"We are ordered by the house to wait on your honour, and to inform you, in answer to your message of the 20th instant, that the house have taken the subject-matter of the said message, with its inclosures, into their immediate consideration; that they highly approve the reasons alleged by the agent for this island, in his correspondence with his grace the duke of Portland, relating to the maroons in Nova-Scotia; and that they unanimously adhere to their resolutions of the 14th December, 1796, and 21st December, 1797, on that subject."

Ordered,

That Mr. Turner and Mr. Mowat be a committee to wait on his honour the lieutenant-governor, with the above message; who returning, reported the delivery thereof.

Parochial party bill committed;

The house, according to order, resolved itself into a committee of the whole house, upon the bill to empower the respective parishes of this island to raise and pay parties, for the suppression of runaway or rebellious slaves:

Mr.

Mr. Speaker, *pro tempore*, left the chair.

Mr. Grant took the chair of the committee.

Mr. Speaker, *pro tempore*, resumed the chair.

Mr. Grant, from the committee, reported, that they had gone through the bill, and had made several amendments thereto, which he was directed to report, when the house would be pleased to receive the same: Reported;

And a motion being made, that the said report be received this day six months;

A debate thereon arising; and the question being put, it passed in the negative:

Then Mr. Grant, in his place, read the amendments, and delivered them in at the table, with the bill; where being again severally read, were agreed unto by the house:

Ordered,

That the said bill, with the amendments, be engrossed, and that the title be, Engrossed.
"An act to empower the respective parishes of this island to raise and pay parties, for the suppression of runaway or rebellious slaves."

The house, according to order, resolved itself into a committee of the whole house, upon the bill for raising three companies of woodmen to be employed internally, for the defence of this island; and for other purposes: Woodmen bill, committed;

Mr. Speaker, *pro tempore*, left the chair.

Mr. Shirley took the chair of the committee.

Mr. Speaker, *pro tempore*, resumed the chair.

Mr. Shirley, from the committee, reported, that they had gone through the bill, and had made several amendments thereto, which he read in his place, and delivered in at the table, with the bill; where being again severally read, were agreed unto by the house: Reported;

Ordered,

That the said bill, with the amendments, be engrossed, and that the title be, Engrossed.
"An act for raising three companies of woodmen to be employed internally, for the defence of this island; and for other purposes."

A motion being made, that a message be sent to his honour the lieutenant-governor, with a copy of the report of yesterday, from the commissioners of public accounts, requesting that his honour will be pleased to give the necessary directions to the crown officer, for proceeding at law against the late receiver-general, respecting the public money he has illegally appropriated to himself; and that this or any future assembly will make good the expence thereof: Motion for a message to lieutenant-governor, respecting late receiver-general.

A debate thereon arising; and the question being put, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Ordered,

That the clerks of the vestries of the several parishes of this island (the parish of Kingston excepted) do transmit to the clerk of this house, on or before the 13th day of November next, a list of the names of all such persons reported to be of foreign birth, as have come to reside as settlers in their respective parishes, since the year 1790: Returns of foreigners ordered.

Ordered,

That the above resolution of the house be published in the Royal Gazette, St. Jago Gazette, and Cornwall Chronicle, for one month. To be published.

Ordered,

Order for translating, and publishing laws in Royal Gazette.

Ordered,

That the following laws, so soon as they shall have passed the several branches of the legislature, be translated into the French language, and published in the Royal Gazette, for one month; viz.

“ *An act for establishing regulations respecting persons of a certain description arriving in this island, or resident therein, in certain cases :*”

“ *An act for vesting certain powers in the magistrates of the several parishes in this island, respecting foreign slaves; and for other purposes.*”

Then the house adjourned till to-morrow morning, nine of the clock.

By virtue of an order of the house, I do appoint Alexander Aikman to print these Notes, and that no other person do presume to print the same.

KEAN OSBORN, *Speaker, pro tempore.*

Sabbati, 23^o die Junii, 1798.

Parochial party bill rejected.

THE engrossed bill to empower the respective parishes of this island to raise and pay parties, for the suppression of runaway or rebellious slaves, was read the third time :

And a motion being made, that the said bill be rejected;

The house divided:

The ayes went forth:

Ayes, 14 :—Noes, 7 :

So it was resolved in the affirmative.

Woodmen bill, with rider, passed.

The engrossed bill for raising three companies of woodmen to be employed internally, for the defence of this island; and for other purposes, was read the third time :

And a rider being proposed to the said bill, the same was received, and read the first time :

Ordered,

That the said rider be read a second time.

Then the said rider was read a second time :

Ordered,

That the said rider be read a third time.

Then the said rider being read the third time;

Resolved,

That the said bill, and rider, do pass.

Ordered,

That Mr. Fitch and Mr. Dawson be a committee to carry the above engrossed bill to the council, and desire their concurrence thereto; who returning, reported the delivery thereof.

Ordered,

That the following message be sent to his honour the Lieutenant-governor:

“ MAY

" MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOUR,

" *We are ordered by the house to wait on your honour, and to lay before you a copy of a report made to the house, from the commissioners appointed by law, for stating and settling the public accounts, to which report the house have agreed; and to request that your honour will be pleased to give the necessary directions to the crown officer, for proceeding at law against the late receiver-general, respecting the public money he has illegally appropriated to himself; the expence of which this or any future assembly will make good.*"

Message to lieutenant-governor, respecting late receiver-general.

Ordered,

That Mr. Macleod and Mr. Fitch be a committee to wait on his honour the lieutenant-governor with the above message; who returning, reported the delivery thereof.

The resolution moved in the house on Thursday last, that the receiver-general do, out of any monies in his hands unappropriated, pay to James Lewis, esquire, clerk to the house, the sum of 400*l.* for his extraordinary trouble, attendance, and expences, during the present session, and that this or any future assembly will make good the same, having lain three days on the table, agreeably to the rule of the house; and being again read, was agreed unto by the house.

Vote of 400*l.* to clerk to house, agreed to.

The resolution moved in the house on Thursday last, that the receiver-general do, out of any monies in his hands unappropriated, pay to Benjamin Lyon, esquire, sergeant at arms attending this house, the sum of 200*l.* for his extraordinary trouble and attendance, during the present session, and that this or any future assembly will make good the same, having lain three days on the table, agreeably to the rule of the house; and being again read, was agreed unto by the house.

Vote of 200*l.* to sergeant at arms, agreed to.

The resolution moved in the house on Thursday last, that the receiver-general do, out of any monies in his hands unappropriated, pay to Mr. Thomas Wills, the sum of 40*l.* for his extraordinary trouble and attendance, during the present session, and that this or any future assembly will make good the same, having lain three days on the table, agreeably to the rule of the house; and being again read, was agreed unto by the house.

Vote of 40*l.* to T. Wills, agreed to.

Mr. Shirley, in his place, moved for leave to bring in a bill to ascertain the pay of persons that have been employed, or shall be employed, in the public service; which was received, and read the first time:

Party pay bill presented.

Ordered,

That the said bill be read a second time, this day.

The house adjourned for a quarter of an hour:

Adjournment.

And being met;

The bill to ascertain the pay of persons that have been employed, or shall be employed, in the public service, was read a second time:

Party pay bill read second time.

Resolved,

That the said bill be committed to a committee of the whole house, this day.

Then the house resolved itself into such committee:

Committed;

Mr. Speaker, *pro tempore*, left the chair.

Mr. Shirley took the chair of the committee.

Mr. Speaker, *pro tempore*, resumed the chair.

Mr. Shirley, from the committee, reported, that they had gone through the bill, without making any amendment thereto:

Reported;

M

Ordered,

Engrossed.

Ordered,
That the said bill be engrossed, and that the title be, "*An act to ascertain the pay of persons that have been employed, or shall be employed, in the public service.*"

Adjournment.

The house adjourned for one quarter of an hour:
And being met;

Party pay bill passed.

The engrossed bill *to ascertain the pay of persons that have been employed, or shall be employed, in the public service*, was read the third time:

Resolved,

That the said bill do pass:

Ordered,

That Mr. Hering and Mr. Quier, be a committee to carry the above engrossed bill to the council, and desire their concurrence thereto; who returning reported the delivery thereof.

Order for printing and distributing laws.

Ordered,

That the secretary of this island do cause the following laws, so soon as they shall have passed the several branches of the legislature, to be printed by the printer to this house.

"*An act for establishing regulations respecting persons of a certain description arriving in this island, or resident therein, in certain cases:*"—One copy whereof to be sent to his honour the lieutenant-governor, and to each member of the council and assembly; one copy to each magistrate, clerk of the peace, and clerk of the vestry; and one copy to each collector and comptroller of the several ports of this island.

"*An act for vesting certain powers in the magistrates of the several parishes of this island, respecting foreign slaves; and for other purposes:*"—One copy whereof to be sent to his honour the lieutenant-governor, and to each member of the council and assembly; one copy to each magistrate, clerk of the peace, and clerk of the vestry; six copies to the provost-marshal-general, and one copy to each of his deputies.

"*An act for raising three companies of woodmen to be employed internally, for the defence of this island; and for other purposes:*"—One copy whereof to be sent to his honour the lieutenant-governor, and to each member of the council and assembly; one copy to each magistrate; one copy to each churchwarden of the respective parishes; and six copies to the receiver-general.

"*An act for enforcing the instructions given to all captains or commanding officers, of ships and vessels having letters of marque and reprisals against the enemy; and for other purposes:*"—One copy whereof to be sent to his honour the lieutenant-governor, and to each member of the council and assembly; one copy to each magistrate, clerk of the peace, and clerk of the vestry; one copy to each collector and comptroller of the several ports of this island; six copies to the judge of the court of vice-admiralty; and one copy to the commissioners for the exchange of prisoners, or their agent in this island.

Message to attend his honour.

A message from his honour the lieutenant-governor, in council, by the provost-marshal, commanding, in the king's name, the immediate attendance of the whole house, in the council-chamber:

Whereupon Mr. Speaker, *pro tempore*, and the whole house, went up; when his honour was pleased to give his assent to the following bills:

" An

"An act for raising three companies of woodmen to be employed internally, for the defence of this island; and for other purposes."

His honour's assent
to bills.

"An act for authorizing his honour the lieutenant-governor, or the governor or commander in chief for the time being, to employ the maroon negroes of Accompong-Town, for the internal defence and security of this island."

"An act to ascertain the pay of persons that have been employed, or shall be employed, in the public service."

"An act for establishing regulations respecting persons of a certain description arriving in this island, or resident therein, in certain cases."

"An act for enforcing the instructions given to all captains or commanding officers, of ships and vessels having letters of marque and reprisals against the enemy; and for other purposes."

"An act for vesting certain powers in the magistrates of the several parishes of this island, respecting foreign slaves; and for other purposes."

And then his honour was pleased to make the following speech:

"GENTLEMEN OF THE COUNCIL,

"MR. SPEAKER, AND GENTLEMEN OF THE ASSEMBLY,

"I have given my assent to the several bills which have been laid before me, and I have much pleasure in granting you that recess which your private concerns, and the season of the year, must make extremely desirable." His honour's speech.

"MR. SPEAKER, AND GENTLEMEN OF THE ASSEMBLY,

"The readiness which you have manifested to defray the expences incurred, on account of the insurrection of the rebellious slaves, is justly entitled to my acknowledgments."

"GENTLEMEN OF THE COUNCIL,

"MR. SPEAKER, AND GENTLEMEN OF THE ASSEMBLY,

"The several laws, which have been passed during this short session, I hope will prove sufficient to insure the tranquillity of the island."

"I have nothing further to recommend to you at present, than a continuance of that vigilance and circumspection in your respective parishes, which the situation of the times renders essentially necessary to our general safety and welfare."

"I do therefore now, in his majesty's name, prorogue this general assembly to Tuesday the thirty-first day of July next, and it is prorogued accordingly." House prorogued.

By virtue of an order of the house, I do appoint Alexander Aikman to print these Notes, and that no other person do presume to print the same.

KEAN OSBORN, Speaker, pro tempore.

END OF THE FOURTH SESSION.



I N D E X

TO THE

V O T E S.

Sess. June, 1798.

*THE Proceedings and Matters of this Session are, in the Index hereto,
arranged in the following manner :*

1. ADDRESS to his honour the lieutenant-governor.

2. BILL private:

3. BILLS public:

The bills under each of the above heads, are *alphabetically* classed, according to their designation or titles, and the particular purport immediately after expressed: The page of the votes for each *regular* stage of the Bills, is exhibited in the Column adapted to that purpose; to the right of the last Column are noticed *incidental proceedings*, and which are referred to in the several stages, by corresponding marks: Where any proceedings have taken place, previous to ordering in the Bill, they form a distinct article among the MISCELLANEOUS.

4. ELECTIONS:

Under this head, are included all notifications of the issuing and the returns of Writs, as well as proceedings thereon; the several matters relating to different parishes are separated, and the parishes classed *alphabetically*.

5. LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR:

Under this Head are contained matters of communication between his Honour and the House.

Note. In several instances it has been judged most proper to notice Messages from and to his Honour, under the article to which they immediately applied; in which cases they are here omitted, to avoid repetition.

6. TROOPS:

All general matters relating to the Troops are noticed under this Head, according to the respective description of Troops.

7. MISCELLANEOUS ARTICLES,

Containing, in *alphabetical order*, other matters not included under any of the foregoing Heads.

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